

Summer Food Service Program Basics

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is administered on a Federal level by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). FNS determines overall program policy, regulations, and payment rates.



The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) administers SFSP in Montana. OPI approves sponsor applications, conducts sponsor trainings, monitors SFSP operations, and processes program reimbursements.



Sponsors complete and certify an online agreement with OPI to run a Summer Food site. OPI reimburses sponsors for serving meals that meet the federal nutrition guidelines.



Sponsors set up sites in their communities. The sites serve FREE summer meals to kids age 18 and under. Most sites are eligible to serve lunch and one other meal service (breakfast or snack).

Sponsors

- Financially responsible party for SFSP sites.
- Organizations that already provide services to the community, have capable staff and good management practices.
- Arrange for meals to be prepared or delivered from a vendor.
- Monitor site(s).
- Prepare claims for reimbursement.
- Locate eligible sites.
- Attend OPI sponsor training.

Sites

- Physical location that food is served during the summer.
- Supervise activities and meal service at your site.
- Attend sponsor's training.
- Distribute meals by following SFSP guidelines.
- Keep daily records of meals served.
- Store food appropriately and keep site clean and sanitary.

Reimbursement Rates Summer 2026

| | Rural or Self Prep | Urban/Vended |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Breakfast | 3.1975 | 3.1375 |
| Lunch/Supper | 5.6000 | 5.5100 |
| Snack | 1.3250 | 1.2950 |

SFSP Meal Patterns

BREAKFAST

8 oz. Fluid Milk
1/2 c. Fruit and/or Vegetable
1 oz. Grain
Optional: 1 oz. Meat/Meat Alternative

LUNCH/SUPPER

8 oz. Fluid Milk
3/4 c. Fruit and Vegetable
(at least two different types)
1 oz. Grain
2 oz. Meat/Meat Alternative

AM/PM SNACK

Choose 2 of 4 Components
8 oz. Fluid Milk
3/4 c. Fruit or Vegetable
1 oz. Grain
1 oz. Meat/Meat Alternative

SFSP Site Types

- **OPEN** (recommended/most common in MT)
 - At least half of the children in the area are eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals during the school year. Call the OPI to determine if your community is eligible. Any child under the age of 18 can attend.
- **ENROLLED**
 - Income statements collected from each child enrolled in the program. Eligible for SFSP if half the children enrolled are eligible for Free and Reduced Priced Meals. Only children enrolled may attend and receive a free meal.
- **MIGRANT**
 - Site primarily serves children of migrant workers. Must obtain appropriate certifications from a migrant organization.
- **CAMP**
 - Regular meals served as part of residential or day camp. Only Free and Reduced eligible meals can be reimbursed.



Contact Us

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VISIT
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