

# MONTANA'S 2018 SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM REPORT

While summer should be a time for children to play in the sun and relax, summer vacation can be one of the hardest times a year for families struggling with food insecurity. Children no longer have access to free and reduced price (FRP) school meals, adding a significant strain to family budgets. As a result, children may miss out on the nutrition needed to minimize learning loss over the summer, known as summer slide.

The **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP or Summer Food)** addresses food insecurity and reduces summer slide by offering nutritious meals at no cost to children and teens ages 18 and under. Community sponsors, including schools, nonprofits, and local government agencies, host congregate meal sites in eligible, low-income areas. Sites can also include enrichment activities and games for the children, which can further reduce summer learning loss. All children, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from this amazing program.

1 in 6 MT Kids  
Live in Food  
Insecure Homes



FRP school meals ensure good nutrition, but when school is out, low-income families may struggle to cover the lost school meals.



MT had 89 Sponsors



Hosting 248 Sites  
in 38 Counties



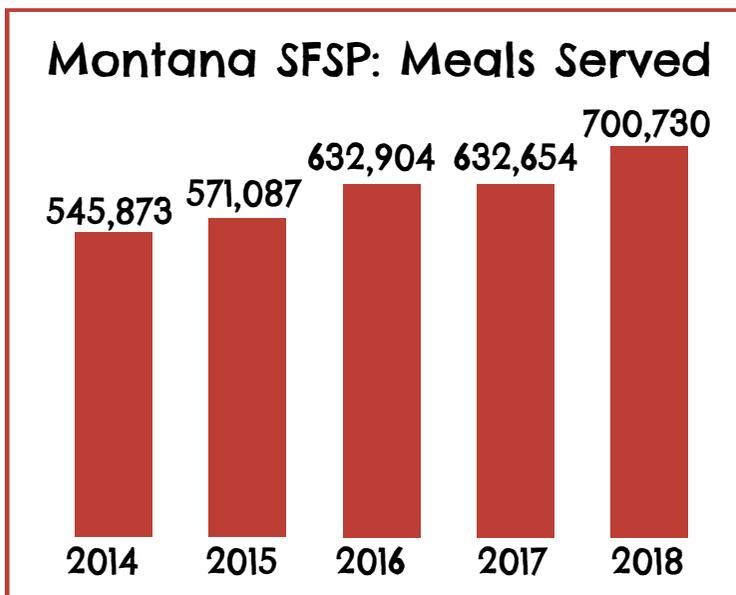
Serving an average  
of 10,402 kids each  
day

## Montana's Performance in Summer 2018

SFSP continues to grow in Montana, providing 700,730 meals across 248 sites during summer 2018. This is an 11% increase over the number of meals served in 2017. However, many children continue to miss out. An average of only 10,402 children ate Summer Food each day in summer 2018, a fraction of the nearly 45,800 low-income students who regularly ate free or reduced price (FRP) lunch the previous school year. At most, Montana SFSP sites provided summer meals to 22.7% of low-income students.

Nearly 45,800 MT students ate free or reduced price (FRP) lunch each day in School Year 17-18

23% of kids who rely on FRP lunch ate Summer Food



# 2018 Summer Food County Data

County	Number of Sponsors	Number of Sites	Average Number of Serving Days	Total Meals Served	% Change in Meals Served over 2017	Average Daily Participation (ADP)	Rate of FRP Student Participation
<b>MONTANA</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>700,730</b>	<b>10.8%</b>	<b>10,402</b>	<b>22.7%</b>
Beaverhead	1	2	59	22,878	11.9%	196	70.2%
Big Horn	5	12	35	41,187	31.5%	771	37.7%
Blaine	2	3	49	11,945	-25.5%	244	29.1%
Broadwater	1	1	42	2,219	9.4%	53	31.0%
Carbon	4	4	28	5,324	8.1%	88	23.8%
Cascade	4	11	35	32,927	-4.5%	570	13.7%
Custer	1	2	54	10,543	19.8%	153	29.9%
Deer Lodge	1	6	49	8,579	-23.8%	103	26.7%
Fergus	2	2	70	6,508	-0.9%	76	15.9%
Flathead	3	16	47	24,637	-17.8%	412	10.9%
Gallatin	1	12	64	27,416	22.7%	310	17.5%
Glacier	2	14	35	25,421	7.6%	419	22.6%
Granite	2	3	32	2,999	2.2%	69	68.7%
Hill	5	11	56	58,675	6.3%	585	41.1%
Jefferson	1	2	46	3,581	93.0%	52	15.3%
Lake	6	13	37	37,807	43.7%	632	27.4%
Lewis&Clark	3	12	63	40,416	-2.6%	630	28.9%
Lincoln	4	6	38	9,902	10.5%	161	19.3%
Madison	1	1	19	729	4.4%	25	12.4%
Mineral	0	3	30	2,822	6.2%	71	23.2%
Missoula	6	28	40	66,589	7.2%	905	24.1%
Musselshell	1	1	60	3,162	12.0%	36	13.3%
Park	1	6	45	10,013	13.3%	156	30.5%
Phillips	1	2	27	1,948	160.1%	58	20.6%
Pondera	2	5	47	16,996	-12.8%	227	65.6%
Powell	0	2	38	1,444	168.9%	38	18.3%
Prairie	1	1	39	1,295	5.5%	23	40.9%
Ravalli	5	7	32	8,370	18.8%	241	15.5%
Richland	1	3	34	870	-12.7%	20	5.3%
Roosevelt	2	6	47	23,231	22.0%	363	23.0%
Rosebud	2	2	32	12,156	1.9%	202	16.3%
Sanders	5	6	23	9,637	0.0%	238	35.2%
Silver Bow	2	11	40	17,227	9.3%	292	24.7%
Teton	1	1	82	978	1.2%	24	7.5%
Toole	1	1	22	1,137	-35.5%	34	15.7%
Valley	1	2	51	5,315	-14.6%	62	13.7%
Wheatland	1	5	75	12,664	137.6%	89	53.6%
Yellowstone	7	23	57	131,183	33.5%	1,776	27.4%

## DATA KEY

**Number of Sponsors** is the total number of SFSP sponsors located in the county.

**Number of Sites** is the total number of SFSP sites in the county. Note, a site may be in a different county than its sponsor.

**Average Number of Serving Days** is the average of serving days of the county's sites.

**Total Meals Served** is the total number of breakfasts, lunches, suppers and snacks served, based on claims submitted by sponsors for reimbursement.

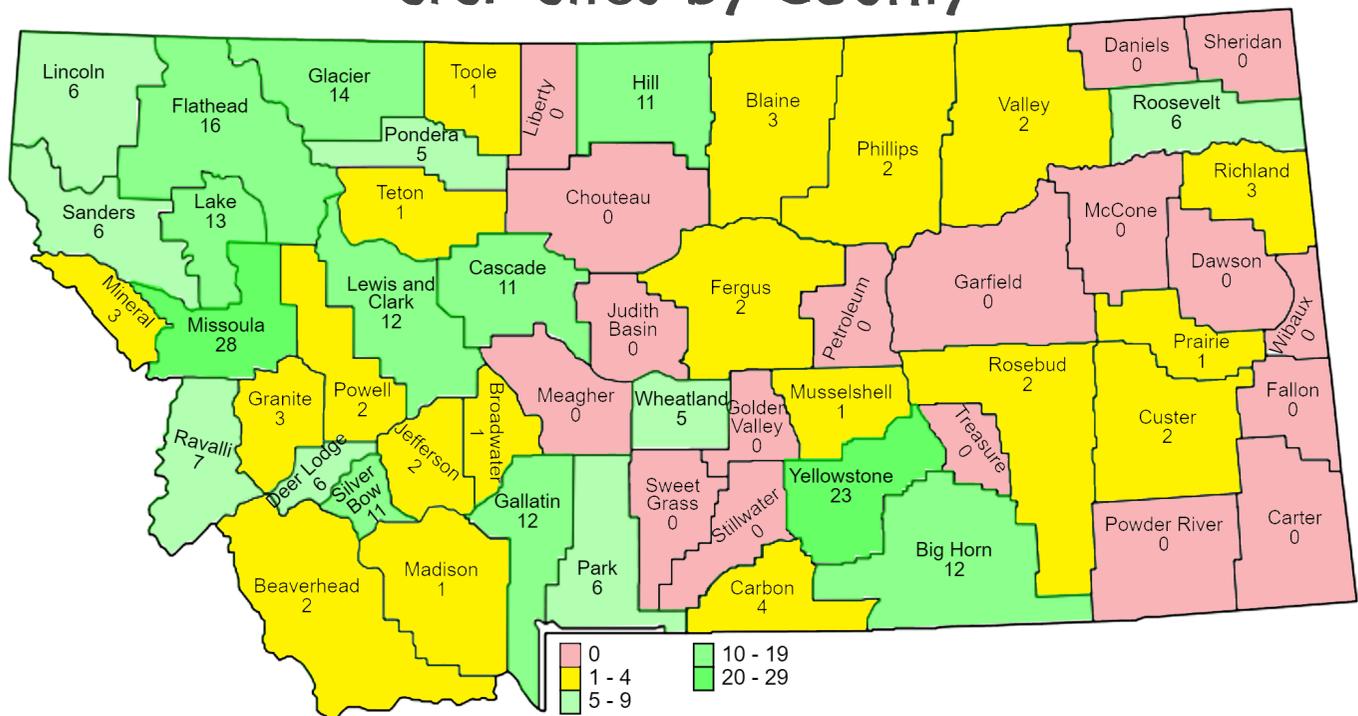
**Average Daily Participation (ADP)** is the estimated number of children eating Summer Feals each day throughout the summer. The county's ADP is the sum of its sites' ADPs.

**% Change in Meals Served over 2017** refers to the percentage difference of the number of meals served from 2017 to 2018.

**Rate of FRP Student Participation** compares ADP in Summer Food to the number of students enrolled in free or reduced price (FRP) meals who regularly ate lunch the previous school year. The percent reflects the highest possible rate of FRP student participation in SFSP, because children may participate in SFSP even if they were not enrolled in FRP meals the previous year.

# Access to Summer Food Sites

## SFSP Sites by County



In summer 2018, SFSP sponsors hosted 248 meal sites, an increase of 13 sites compared to summer 2017, and 24 additional sites compared to summer 2016. Although July tends to be the month with the most sites, 178 sites were open in August of summer 2018, an increase of 19 sites compared to summer 2017. Despite this growing access, distance to programs remains one of the most significant barriers to participation in Montana, especially in rural areas.

### Distance to Summer Food Sites

In summer 2018, Montana had 37 counties with 4 or fewer SFSP sites - including 18 counties with zero sites - for the entire county. These counties are predominately rural and sparsely populated, making it difficult to operate a traditional SFSP program. This lack of access, particularly in rural areas, demonstrates the need for options that are better designed to reach kids where they are, such as Summer EBT.

## Why Summer Food Matters

### Food Insecurity has Long-Lasting Impacts

In early years of life, good nutrition is important for establishing a solid foundation that has implications for a child's future. Children struggling with food insecurity face lifelong impacts to their physical and mental health, academic achievement, and economic productivity. For example, children experiencing food insecurity are at risk of:



Higher rates of sickness, infections & chronic diseases



Lower Test Scores



Decreased chance of high school graduation

### Summer Slide Leaves Kids Behind

Inconsistent access to nutritious food during the summer months can contribute to **summer slide**, or summer learning loss, leaving low-income children at a greater disadvantage when school begins the next school year. Summer slide is also heightened with the loss of enrichment activities that help stimulate learning between school years. The Summer Food Service Program helps to bridge this gap and reduce summer slide by providing reliable, nutritious food, along with a chance for socialization and engagement.

# SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM RESOURCES



## MT Office of Public Instruction

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) administers SFSP in Montana. For information on how to sponsor a Summer Food site, contact Kim Lloyd, Summer Food Service Program Manager at (406) 444-0772 or [kimberly.lloyd@mt.gov](mailto:kimberly.lloyd@mt.gov). You may also visit <http://opi.mt.gov/School-Nutrition/Summer-Food-Service-Program> for more overall information.

## USDA

For more information on the Summer Food Service Program, including regulations for sponsorship and establishing sites, see: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program>.

## Montana No Kid Hungry

Montana No Kid Hungry provides support, including occasional grant funding, to Summer Food sites. For more information, contact Summer Meals and Nutrition Coordinator, Danielle Anderson at [danderson3@mt.gov](mailto:danderson3@mt.gov) or (406) 765-3430. Also visit: <https://mt.nokidhungry.org/>.

## About this Report

This 2018 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Report is created by the Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN) using data obtained from the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI). We identified trends within this report through analysis of SFSP sponsor meal counts submitted to the USDA for reimbursement and only utilized the meal counts of individual sites as a secondary reference for calculations of Average Daily Participation (ADP). Additionally, the report includes MFBN analysis of data from school year 2017-2018, which was provided by OPI. For more information on school meal data, see MFBN's School Breakfast Report Card: [www.mfbn.org/breakfast](http://www.mfbn.org/breakfast).

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Our mission is to end hunger in Montana