

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM IN MASSACHUSETTS

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federally funded nutrition program that provides **free meals to children ages 18 and under** when school is not in session.



229,170 children¹ live in food insecure households

38%



of children² are eligible



for free and reduced price meals.



Without school meals, food insecurity increases in the summer.



Only 16%

of eligible children³

participated in the Summer Food Service Program in 2013.

Introduce a SFSP site in your community to help reach more hungry children!

The Keys to Implementing a Successful Summer Food Service Program in Your Community



FUNDING

4 For every SFSP meal served to a child, sponsors receive a per meal reimbursement. The funding for these meals are issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and allocated to the sponsors by the ESE. Reimbursement rates are updated every year.



3 OPEN vs. CLOSED SITE



An **open site** provides free meals to any child at the site. No registration is required to attend the meal site. Sites may operate as an open/area eligible site if the percentage of children eligible to receive a free or reduced-price meal is equal to or higher than 50 percent from a nearby school. A **closed site** limits meal site participation to children enrolled in the site's program(s). Site eligibility for a closed site is determined in a variety of ways.



1 SPONSORSHIP

A sponsor administers the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) for one or more meal sites and is responsible for all financial and administrative aspects of the program. A sponsor may be a public school department, local government agency, camp, or private non-profit organization. Sponsor responsibilities include the following tasks: hiring, training, supervising program staff, monitoring sites, arranging for meals to be prepared and delivered to sites, and submitting reimbursement claims to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE). Sponsors may prepare meals for their sites or hire a vendor to do so.



2 SUMMER MEAL SITE

A summer meal site is a location where free meals are served to and consumed by children 18 years old and under. Parks, schools, community centers, religious organizations, and other settings are locations of many SFSP sites.



START BY GETTING INVOLVED

Schools, park programs, community agencies, churches, or other entities interested in becoming a SFSP site or sponsor should contact the Child Nutrition Outreach Program (CNOP). CNOP can help determine if a site is eligible. To become a sponsor, please request an application from ESE by contacting the Office for Nutrition, Health and Safety Programs at 781-338-6480 or by email: nutrition@doe.mass.edu. You can also visit the www.meals4kids.org website for additional information.



¹Map the Meal Gap: Highlights of Findings for Overall and Child Food Insecurity 2011, Feeding America, 2013.

²Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, School Breakfast Program, October 2012 Statistics.

³Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Summer Food Service Program, July 2013 Statistics.