



Summer Food Service Program Overview

The North Carolina Simplified Summer Food Service Program makes it easier for schools, local government agencies, and private non-profit organizations to feed children during the summer.

The Simplified Summer Food Service Program:

- Dramatically cuts paperwork by eliminating complicated accounting requirements.
- Ensures that all sponsors receive the maximum federal reimbursement. The funding can really add up.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides funds to the NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) to administer the Summer Food Service Program. Staff in the NCDPI School Nutrition Section recruit local government, school food authorities, and non-profit organizations to sponsor SFSP in their communities. Sponsors are reimbursed for the cost of the meals served to eligible children and may apply for advance funds to cover start-up costs. Meals may be prepared on-site if the kitchen is adequately equipped, or sponsors may contract with a vendor to purchase prepared meals.

The program is offered in community locations such as parks, schools, playgrounds, housing authorities, day camps, churches and community centers from May to September. The SFSP meal service is often combined with learning and recreational activities for the children. A year-round site is also an option for children attending year-round schools during the months of October-April.

During 2014, more than 826,000 children in North Carolina were eligible to receive SFSP meals. However, only 17 out of every 100 of those same children were served nutritious meals during the summer. Therefore, the School Nutrition Services Section is making every effort to publicize the program so that more organizations will become program sponsors.