



lunch box
by red rabbit

FAQs for SFSP Program Sites

What is the program?

The USDA and NYSED have extended the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) through the end of the school year to allow schools to serve any child in need, regardless of whether the child is affiliated with your school/organization.

What's the benefit to my organization and my community?

By operating as a site for the SFSP, you will be able to serve all children under the age of 18 and 19 in case of developmental delays. You can continue to operate other programs at your site such as CACFP at-risk after school and others in tandem with this program. The open site provision enables you to expand your existing food security program while minimizing the administrative burden. Best of all, these meals will be provided at no cost to you as all costs are borne by the NY state dept of education and USDA through the sponsoring organization.

How can we get involved?

NYSED has stated that existing School Food Authorities are given priority for this extension. Red Rabbit will pair you with an NYSED approved SFSP sponsor and work with you to identify optimal distribution capacity and meal delivery options (grab & go, home delivery etc). Red Rabbit is then able to manage all enrollment, communication and delivery for the program.

What type of administration is required?

Red Rabbit will ensure that each of the menus follow the nutritional requirements (SFSP is less complicated in many ways than NSLP). Other administrative requirements include setting up one page agreements with the sponsor, using the tick sheets for meal distribution tallies and undergoing a brief administrative training issued by the sponsoring organization.

As an SFA with an existing contractor for school food, am I able to partner with Red Rabbit to receive meals through SFSP?

Yes, you are not required to switch vendors for operations as an SFSP site. You are allowed to continue using your existing vendor for normal day-day operations and also use Red Rabbit for SFSP meal provision.

Would I have to switch child nutrition programs or can the SFSP be an addition to my existing food program?

When operating as a site, you do not need to switch programs. You will be able to continue your operations under any child nutrition program and simultaneously function as an open site through SFSP. This allows you to serve your enrolled students and additional children from the community as well.

How many children are we able to enroll?

The SFSP program is open to all students under 19 years of age, therefore there is no cap. Ultimately the sponsor serves as the fiscally responsible organization that claims each meal from the state. NYSED has stated that they will run this program until the end of the school year, or until funds run out. So the decision on how many children to enroll is solely based on your distribution capacity, community need and the financial position of the sponsor.