



June 9, 2023

Announcements from the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

IN THIS ISSUE:

[Non-congregate Meal Waivers Available for Excessive Heat Days](#)

[Statewide SFSP Media Release](#)

[Child Care and Summer Meals](#)

[Wisconsin Cucumber Crunch](#)

[Turnip the Beet](#)

[Expand Your Reach this Summer!](#)



Non-congregate Meal Waivers Available for Excessive Heat Days

DPI has received approval from USDA to allow SFSP and SSO sponsors, in good standing, to request to waive the congregate meal service requirement, at approved outdoor meal sites that are not temperature-controlled, on days when the area is experiencing excessive heat. Non-congregate meal service may be offered only on days when the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a Heat Advisory, an Excessive Heat Warning, or an Excessive Heat Watch for the area in which an approved outdoor meal site is located. Please note that this waiver is not the same as the new option to provide a rural non-congregate meal service as described in Section 13(a)(13) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42U.S.C. 1761). This waiver is not limited to sites in rural areas and may only be applied to sites approved for congregate meal service.

Sponsors must be approved to provide non-congregate meals prior to the excessive heat day. If interested in applying for this waiver, please send an email to sfsp@dpi.wi.gov.

Statewide SFSP Media Release

On May 26th, DPI issued a [Statewide Media Release](#) on behalf of all sponsors. This media release fulfills the requirement to notify the public of all SFSP sponsors and sites operating in Wisconsin and provides the non-discrimination statement and complaint procedure. Sponsors are no longer required to submit their own media release; however, sponsors of camps and enrolled sites must notify participants of the availability of

free meals. Other sponsors should continue to make the community aware of open sites. Remember to register your open sites with [Wisconsin 2-1-1](#) and promote the [Summer Meals Site Finder](#). A list of sponsors and sites that will be updated throughout the summer, can also be found on the [SFSP webpage](#).

Child Care and Summer Meals

Children that are enrolled in a childcare center that operates the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), may only receive meals through the SFSP, when not in the care of the childcare center. For instance, if a child enrolled in the childcare center is also enrolled in summer school, that child can receive meals through the SFSP while attending summer school. When back in the care of the childcare center, the child may receive meals through the CACFP.

Wisconsin Cucumber Crunch



Celebrate summer by participating in the Cucumber Crunch! This is a simple, celebratory event to promote local foods and farm to summer. Pick any date this summer and have staff and children crunch into local cucumbers. Check out the Cucumber Crunch Fact Sheet, Activities and Recipes on the [Celebrate Summer](#) webpage. We encourage you to share your crunch photos with us at sfsp@dpi.wi.gov!

Turnip the Beet



The Turnip the Beet Award recognizes outstanding summer meal program sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer high quality meals to children that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months. FNS recognized 98 summer meal sponsors with Turnip the Beet awards for excellence in program year 2022. Congratulations again to Lori Epstein and her team at the Stevens Point Area School District, who took home the 2022 Gold Turnip the Beet Award for Wisconsin!

Showcase those nutritious meals you are providing this summer, by completing the 2023 Nomination Form and supporting documentation found on the [USDA FNS Turnip the Beet](#) website. Submit it to [SFSP@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:sfsp@dpi.wi.gov) by September 15, 2023.

Expand Your Reach this Summer!

As initial SFSP application approvals are coming to an end with the start of summer, we wanted to remind sponsors that you may continue to expand your Programs throughout the summer by:

- Extending dates of operation -consider continuing to offer meals after summer school ends.
- Adding additional sites – consider partnering with community groups like the park and recreation department or your local library to offer meals to kids during their planned activities.
- Contact your local food bank or pantry to ask about opportunities to partner in the community.
- Adding an additional meal service, if you're currently only offering one meal (most sponsors can offer up to 2 meal services per day in any combination other than lunch and supper.)
- Adding a rural non-congregate program, if eligible.

All of these require approval from DPI prior to service. Please reach out to your assigned consultant for more information.



Remember to continue promoting your program as well! Include the QR code on SFSP outreach materials to help families find SFSP sites. The QR code links to the [Find a SFSP Meal Site page](#) of the SFSP website. Simply copy and paste the QR code onto your materials to share!

The information contained in this Bulletin is also located on the [SFSP website](#). Questions may be directed to your [assigned SFSP consultant](#) or sent to sfsp@dpi.wi.gov.