



January 18, 2024

Announcements from the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

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Rural Non-congregate Meal Service

On December 29, 2022, President Biden signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (the Act) (P.L. 117-328). The Act included significant policy changes for Child Nutrition Programs, including the authorization of a permanent, non-congregate meal service through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) for rural areas with no congregate meal service and established the permanent Summer EBT Program beginning in summer 2024. [The Summer EBT and Rural Non-congregate Summer Meals Option Interim Final Rule \(IFR\)](#) was published on December 29, 2023. This interim final rule amends the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the National School Lunch Program's Seamless Summer Option (SSO) regulations to codify the flexibility for rural program operators to provide non-congregate meal service in the SFSP and SSO, collectively referred to as the summer meal programs. This rule also establishes regulations and codifies the Summer EBT Program in the Code of Federal Regulations. Because this is an Interim Final Rule, the public can provide comments through April 29, 2024. Visit the [USDA website](#) for information on how to comment.

[Rural Non-congregate Meals in the SFSP](#) provides an overview of the Program. A recorded webinar will be posted on our [SFSP Training Page](#) in February. This will

include full details of the requirements of the Program starting in 2024 and outline the application process. The new [Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service](#) page will be the source for rural non-congregate meal information.

Training Opportunities and Registration

Our training opportunities for 2024 reflect the results of the survey response received last fall. Thank you to everyone who responded! Many of you noted how difficult it is to come to a training due to lack of staffing. So, based on last year's attendance at the trainings and taking this into consideration, we have selected two locations, Stevens Point and Rice Lake, for the Pop-ups in 2024. And the Full Day Training will be held in Madison. We plan to rotate the Pop-ups to different locations from year to year and will offer more online training, when needed.

All sponsors must register for one of the training options below by March 1st. Links to register are also posted on the [SFSP Training page](#).

Option 1: Pop-up Sessions (Stevens Point, Rice Lake): These sessions will be an open time period (no formal presentation) where returning sponsors can 'pop-in' to receive program updates, the latest resources from DPI and USDA, and receive one-on-one training with the DPI SFSP consultants. We'll be there to help you plan your 2024 program, assist with identifying community partners and potential sites for expansion, and answer specific questions you may have. Each location will provide the same information; choose the one most convenient to you!

Stevens Point: Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. [Stevens Point Registration Link](#)

Rice Lake: Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. [Rice Lake Registration Link](#)

Option 2: Full Day Training (Madison): This full day group training will provide a comprehensive review of the SFSP administrative and operational requirements. Topics covered will include site eligibility, meal service requirements, production planning, procurement, site training and monitoring, civil rights requirements, meal counting, claiming, and financial management. This training is for new sponsors, returning sponsors with new administrative staff and any other sponsor personnel that that would like a complete refresher.

Madison: Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. [Madison Registration Link](#)

Option 3: E-Learning Course: If not attending a Pop-up or the Full Day Training, you are required to [Register for the E-Learning Course](#). This is available online and can be accessed 24/7 without a password. The Lessons must be reviewed prior to starting SFSP operation. Complete the form at the end of each lesson for verification that the Lesson has been completed.

Training Materials and Resources

All Program materials, including one page summary resources organized by topic and prototype forms for completing recordkeeping requirements, can be found online on the [SFSP Materials & Resources](#) page. The one-pagers are helpful resources for training and

reviewing Program requirements. Many of the resources have been updated for 2024. Sponsors attending a pop-up training or full day training will receive a paper copy to update your binders. Those taking the E-learning Course, should be sure to review the resources online and/or print them to update your binders.

Application Opens March 1st

Sponsors may begin updating their SFSP application starting on March 1st following the instructions provided in the 2024 SFSP Application Manual. The application will be due April 10th if ordering USDA Foods or requesting an advance in payment. It is due May 3rd, if not ordering USDA Foods or requesting an advance.

DPI will post a recorded webinar on the [SFSP Training page](#) on February 26th that will review the Application process. It is highly recommended that this webinar be viewed prior to completing the application. The webinar is not live, so it may be viewed at any time.


Safe Practices, Safe Meals, Safe Children: Food Safety Tips for Safe Summer Meals Webinar

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will host a national webinar titled, Safe Practices, Safe Meals, Safe Children: Food Safety Tips for Safe Summer Meals on **January 31, 2024, from 2:00pm–3:30pm CST**. All summer nutrition program operators are encouraged to attend.

The webinar will include a food safety presentation, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) policy presentation, sharing session, and a Questions and Answers (Q&A) session. Food safety topics that will be addressed include employee health and hygiene, alternative meal service and distribution, best practices for transporting, and holding foods.

The webinar will provide SFSP sponsors with food safety information in a train-the-trainer format. The presentation and accompanying materials will be available for use after the webinar.

Pre-registration is not required for this webinar. On the day of the webinar, attendees can join using one of the following options:

- **Join online by using link for webinar:**
[Safe Practices, Safe Meals, Safe Children: Food Safety Tips for Safe Summer Meals](#)

Webinar number:
2763 811 9299

Webinar password:
YUtdZvWe679 (98839893 from phones and video systems)

- **Join by phone:**
+1-415-527-5035 US Toll
+1-929-251-9612 USA Toll 2

Access code:
276 381 19299



Program Abbreviation/Definition Key

SFA=School Food Authority
SSO=Seamless Summer Option
SFSP=Summer Food Service Program

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