



SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FAQ'S

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Summer Food Service Program?

The Summer Food Service Program, also known as summer meals or SFSP, is a federal nutrition program designed to ensure that all youth (18 and under) have access to healthy meals and snacks during summer break.

What are the requirements for my child to receive a meal?

Do I have to fill out an application form?

There is no application or registration necessary. All youth (18 and under) can attend a location during mealtimes to receive a no-cost meal. To follow safe social distancing practices during the pandemic, families can pick up to-go meals and parents can pick up meals for their children.

Is there a cost?

There is no cost for meals served to children. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires that meals be served at no charge to youth ages 18 and under. Summer food sites are not required to serve adults, however some offer meals to adults at a cost.

How do I find a meal site in my area?

Go to KidsFoodFinder.org to find summer meal sites in your area. Sites are added as they open, remember to check back through the summer to search for new sites. You can also call our free, bilingual and statewide Food Resource Hotline (855-855-4626) for assistance locating a summer meal site and other no-cost community food resources.

Who funds the Summer Food Service Program?

The Summer Food Service Program is federally funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE).



What kind of food is served at these sites?

Summer food sites serve nutritionally balanced meals that meet USDA guidelines. All lunches, for example, include a serving of milk, two servings of fruits and/or vegetables, a serving of grains, and at least one serving of protein. Not all sites serve the same types of meals. Sites may serve breakfast, a snack, lunch, or even dinner! Check [KidsFoodFinder.org](https://www.kidsfoodfinder.org) to find locations in your community.

There's no summer meal site in my community. How can I ensure one is available next summer?

If there are no summer meal sites in your community, help establish a program for next summer! You can start by finding a sponsor that is responsible for the administration of the program. Sponsors can be a school district, non-profit organization, community-based organization, faith-based organization, or local government agency. To begin mobilizing your community, contact the following groups and tell them you're working to establish a summer meal site in your community to ensure youth have access to crucial nutrition over the summer.

- School officials such as school food service managers, superintendents, principals, teachers, and school board members
- Local government officials such as the mayor's office, city council, county commissioners, or other elected officials
- Service organizations such as the local food bank and food pantry organizations in your community

Additionally, connect with Hunger Free Colorado at info@hungerfreecolorado.org and we will help you take those first steps by connecting potential sites to sponsors in your community.

I want to help, what else can I do?

Volunteer! The best SFSP sites have organized, well-run activities that keep the interest of the youth coming back to the site day after day. Some of these activities include arts and crafts, tutoring, mentoring, drama, sports, computer training, music, gardening, reading programs, cooking or any other creative ideas you may have.

Many sites have enlisted their local celebrities, fire and police departments, businesses and political figures to their SFSP sites. The only limitation is your imagination.

Visit [KidsFoodFinder.org](https://www.kidsfoodfinder.org) to find a site near you and contact them about volunteer opportunities.





RESOURCES

Colorado Department of Education

For more information on the Summer Food Service Program, visit the Colorado Department of Education's website. There you can find:

- How to apply
- Program requirements
- Outreach Toolkits
- Training materials and much more!

To follow safe social distancing practices during the pandemic, families can pick up to-go meals and parents can pick up meals for their children. For more information, visit the [Colorado Department of Education's emergency feeding page](#).

Food Resource Hotline

Hunger Free Colorado's Food Resource Hotline is a free, bilingual and statewide resource that:

- Serves as a "one-stop" resource in English and Spanish
- Helps you navigate federal and charitable food programs
- Screens for all federal nutrition assistance programs
- Assists with applying for SNAP, also known as food stamps, by phone
- Keeps all information confidential
- Open to all individuals, regardless of legal status, in Colorado

Colorado Department of Human Services

CDHS assists struggling Colorado families who need food, cash and energy assistance to provide for their families. This includes:

- Families in need of safe and affordable child care
- Children at risk of abuse or neglect
- Families who struggle to provide care for their adult children with developmental disabilities
- Youth who have violated the law and need structure and guidance to grow into responsible and compassionate adults
- Coloradans who need effective treatment for mental illness or substance abuse issues
- Families who need resources to care for their elderly parents or nursing home care for their veteran parents

Food Assistance Program (SNAP)

The Food Assistance Program provides food benefits to low income households. Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards are issued and are used like debit cards at most grocery stores to buy food; ensuring that all Coloradans have access to a healthy diet. Visit this [website](#) or call (303) 866-3122 for more information.

Colorado PEAK – Public Assistance Portal

Colorado PEAK is an online service for Coloradans to screen themselves and apply for medical, food, and cash assistance programs. [Click here to visit the Colorado PEAK website.](#)

Colorado 2-1-1 – Health and Human Services Information and Referral Hotline

Colorado 2-1-1 provides free information and referrals to all kinds of services: homeless shelters, child care, after-school programs, affordable health care, mental health counseling, and much more. Visit their [website](#) or call 2-1-1.



kidsfoodfinder.org