



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

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## **THE HEALTHY, HUNGER-FREE KIDS ACT**

### **NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR STATE**

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 made a number of improvements to the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). These provisions simplify Program administration and better ensure that children get the nutrition they need when school is out. Here are some tips on how to get the most of the new requirements.

#### **HIGHER SITE LIMITS FOR PRIVATE NONPROFIT SPONSORS**

Eligible private nonprofit organizations may participate in SFSP under the same terms and conditions as other sponsors. This allows approval of all sponsors to operate a maximum of 200 sites and serve a maximum total average daily attendance of 50,000 children.

##### ***Tips for Implementation:***

- Target successful private nonprofit sponsors in your State about new opportunities to expand the meal service programs to serve more children at more sites.
- Encourage partnerships among small sponsors to expand the number of sites and children they are able to serve in 2011. It may be easier for one sponsor to administer ten sites than for two sponsors to administer five sites each.
- Reach out to community organizations that did not become sponsors or sites during the past year and provide updated information about the need for summer meals for children in their area.

#### **PERMANENT OPERATING AGREEMENTS**

Permanent agreements are now required for all sponsors. Agreements may be amended, but do not need renewal.

##### ***Tips for Implementation:***

- Convert all current annual agreements into permanent agreements, by simply notifying sponsors that existing agreements are now permanent, have no predetermined expiration date, and will not need to be renewed.
- Only request updates on information that has changed rather than a predetermined list of items to submit (annual budgets are still required).

## **OUTREACH TO FAMILIES**

School food authorities must cooperate with sponsors to ensure that families are informed of the availability and location of summer meal sites. State education and State SFSP agencies must facilitate connections among school food authorities and SFSP sponsors.

### ***Tips for Implementation:***

- Promote partnerships to develop and share electronic outreach materials for school food authorities & sponsors.
- Promote the SFSP Outreach Toolkit for Sponsors and Feeding Sites, which includes fliers, letters to parents, and other materials that may help schools raise program awareness among students and their families.
- Encourage SFSP sponsors to provide ready-to-use outreach materials for schools to use.
- Encourage schools to use their autodial recording system for schools to broadcast to families. Many school districts have “call-out” phone systems, which leave automated messages at students’ homes to inform parents and guardians of various issues.
- Encourage sponsors to use community resources to publicize sites by: Registering at the National Hunger Clearinghouse Resource Directory at **[www.whyhunger.org/resources/resource-directory.html](http://www.whyhunger.org/resources/resource-directory.html)** where every site becomes part of a network of service providers who are fighting hunger and poverty on the front lines.
- Inform sponsors about Serve.gov at **<http://www.serve.gov>**, which can connect sites to volunteers in search of service opportunities within their communities.

## **CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY FOR FOSTER CHILDREN**

Children in foster care are now eligible for free meals without further application. This creates new opportunities for outreach to organizations serving at-risk children and youth.

### ***Tips for Implementation:***

- Contact the agency that administers the foster care program and create a mechanism for communication.
- Facilitate disclosure of information from State child welfare and social service agencies to certify eligibility for free meals for children in foster care.
- Request contact information for State child welfare officials by contacting the appropriate U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regional staff.
- Provide program information to your State Foster Parent Association, licensed child welfare agencies, court appointed special advocates, and foster care managers.

For more information, see the 2011 SFSP Handbooks available at:

**[www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/summer/library/handbooks.html](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/summer/library/handbooks.html)**