



# Non-Congregate Feeding Pilot Update

Summer 2023

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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
**COMMISSIONER SID MILLER**

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Food and Nutrition Division  
Summer Meal Programs



Updated 4/25/2023  
[www.SquareMeals.org](http://www.SquareMeals.org)

# Non-Congregate Pilot Program Eligibility

- Only available in rural counties and rural census tracts in urban counties
- Only school districts participating in NSLP and experienced Private Non-Profits in good standing can participate
- Primarily only new sites will be allowed to participate
  - USDA does not intend for NC to replace congregate service.
  - Only school districts that reported a loss last summer AND in a rural county will be able to switch from congregate feeding to NC.
- All NC sites must be at least 2 miles away from an existing congregate site.

# Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Feeding Pilot Program

Administration/Forms
Area Eligibility
CFDA/FAIN Numbers
Compliance
Disaster Resources
Food Safety
Funding Opportunities
Income Eligibility Guidelines
Latest News

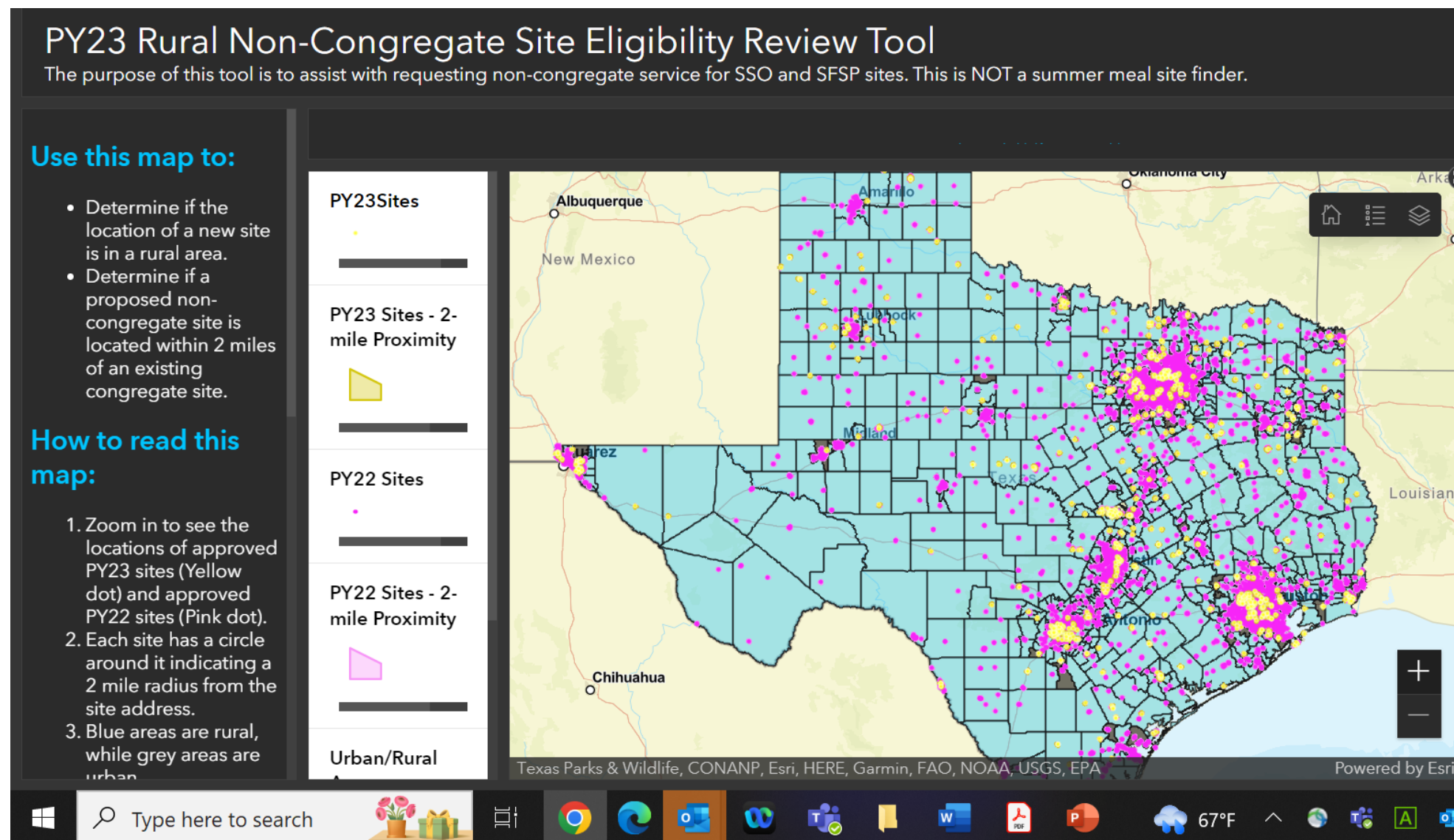
## Eligibility and Implementation

TDA is using the discretion provided to States in the Appropriations Act and subsequent guidance from USDA to create a Non-Congregate Feeding Pilot Program for Summer 2023 in rural areas where no congregate service currently exists. Use the resources at right to determine eligibility and get answers to questions about the pilot program.

### RESOURCES

- [Application Steps at a Glance](#)
- [Informational One Pager](#)
- [Non-Congregate Feeding Pilot FAQs](#)
- [Non-Congregate Eligibility Map](#)
- [List of Rural-Designated Counties](#)
- [List of School Districts Eligible to Switch to Non-Congregate Service](#)
- [Request to Serve Non-Congregate Meals](#)

# STEP ONE - Use mapping tool to determine site eligibility for NC. Check to verify rural area and proximity to congregate sites.





Published list  
of rural  
counties.  
Does not  
include urban  
counties with  
rural pockets.

Rural Counties Eligible for Non-Congregate Service

The 2022 Appropriations Act authorizes TDA to implement non-congregate feeding in rural areas. The following counties are designated as rural by the Office of Management and Budget. Sites located in these counties **may** be eligible to participate in the Pilot Program if they meet eligibility and proximity requirements as described in the Non-Congregate Feeding Pilot Program FAQs on SquareMeals.org.

**NOTE:** This list does not include any counties designated as urban; operators wishing to operate a non-congregate service in an urban-designated county should verify that the site is located in a rural census tract within that county. Please use the Non-Congregate Site Eligibility Map to determine the site’s eligibility based on location.

Rural-Designated Counties

Anderson	Deaf Smith	Hockley	Maverick	Scurry
Andrews	Delta	Hopkins	McCulloch	Shackelford
Angelina	Dewitt	Houston	McMullen	Shelby
Aransas	Dickens	Howard	Menard	Sherman
Bailey	Dimmit	Hutchinson	Milam	Somervell
Baylor	Donley	Jack	Mills	Starr
Bee	Duval	Jackson	Mitchell	Stephens
Blanco	Eastland	Jasper	Montague	Stonewall
Borden	Edwards	Jeff Davis	Moore	Sutton
Bosque	Erath	Jim Hogg	Morris	Swisher
Brewster	Fannin	Jim Wells	Motley	Terrell
Briscoe	Fayette	Karnes	Nacogdoches	Terry
Brooks	Fisher	Kenedy	Navarro	Throckmorton
Brown	Floyd	Kent	Newton	Titus
Burnet	Foard	Kerr	Nolan	Trinity
Calhoun	Franklin	Kimble	Ochiltree	Tyler
Camp	Freestone	King	Palo Pinto	Upton
Cass	Frio	Kinney	Panola	Uvalde
Castro	Gaines	Kleberg	Parmer	Val Verde
Cherokee	Garza	Knox	Pecos	Van Zandt
Childress	Gillespie	Lamar	Polk	Walker
Cochran	Glasscock	Lamb	Presidio	Ward
Coke	Gonzales	Lasalle	Rains	Washington
Coleman	Gray	Lavaca	Reagan	Wharton
Collingsworth	Grimes	Lee	Real	Wheeler
Colorado	Hale	Leon	Red River	Wilbarger



## What is a “rural pocket”?

- Defined by USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) - a census tract is urban if the geographic centroid of the tract is in an area with more than 2,500 people; all other tracts are rural.
- Data pulled from ERS’ Food Access Research Atlas.

IMPORTANT:

- CEs on this list **MUST** submit a Non-Congregate Site Request Form for each site.
- Inclusion on this list does not indicate automatic approval.
- Sites must meet proximity requirements.

Contracting Entities Potentially Eligible to Switch Existing Sites to Non-Congregate Service

The CEs listed in this report reported a loss in Summer 2022 and operated in rural counties, making them **potentially** eligible to switch existing congregate sites to non-congregate sites in Summer 2023. Note that to be approved, sites cannot be located within a 2-mile radius of an existing congregate site. Interested Contracting Entities **must have an approved site application followed by submittal and approval of a Site Request to Serve Non-Congregate Meals**. Once approved, TDA will add an "NC" designation to the site name in TX-UNPS. Refer to SquareMeals for more information.

CE Name
ABERNATHY ISD
ALPINE ISD
BALLINGER ISD
BALMORHEA ISD
BENAVIDES ISD
BIG SPRING ISD
BOLING ISD
BOOKER ISD
BORGER ISD
BOVINA ISD
BRADY ISD
BRECKENRIDGE ISD
BROWNFIELD ISD
BROWNSBORO ISD
BROWNWOOD ISD

# Site Request to Serve Non-Congregate Meals

**IMPORTANT:**

- **DO NOT SUBMIT UNTIL SITE APPLICATION IS APPROVED.**
- One form per site.
- Must indicate methods, days, and times of distribution.
- TDA validates proximity.

11. What obstacles prevent congregate service in your area (check all that apply): \*

Transportation to and from site for participants X

12. Enter the method of non-congregate feeding. \*

(Note: Only one non-congregate method is allowed per site. For example, if operating a home delivery method and a grab-and-go site, these must be two separate sites with two separate site applications):

Grab-and-go at central site

13. Select the option that best describes the meal service at your site. NOTE: Number of days cannot exceed the number of days approved to serve in the site application: \*

Single distribution of five days' meals at one time.

14. Please list the day or days of meal distribution. Note that meals must be distributed during the times listed on your site application, and meals may only be claimed for the days listed in the site application. \*

Monday X





A group of diverse children are sitting at a long table outdoors, covered with a red and white checkered tablecloth. They are eating from brown cardboard boxes and drinking from blue cartons. The setting is a grassy area with trees in the background. A large red rectangle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

Remember!

**THIS IS A  
PILOT**

- Actual regulation not available until after Summer 2023 – Program thus likely to change in 2024
- Goal is to establish infrastructure and lessons learned for subsequent years
- Data collected will inform USDA in their rulemaking

**HEALTHY  
SUMMER  
MEALS  
FOR KIDS**