



Simplified Summer Food Program

The Simplified Summer Food Program is a variation of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). The Simplified Summer Food Program grew out of an earlier pilot project, which operated from fiscal year 2001 through fiscal year 2004 in 14 original states. In 2004, legislation changed the name of the pilot project to the *Simplified Summer Food Program* and six states were added to the original 14 states. Since 2008, the remaining states in the United States have been added to those states previously named.

Under simplified procedures, sponsoring organizations do not have to report costs in order to receive reimbursement, nor are they limited to using administrative funds strictly for administrative costs and *operational funds* for meal service related operational costs. By reducing reporting requirements, ensuring the maximum level of per meal reimbursement, and providing greater flexibility in the use of Program funds, more organizations may choose to participate or to expand current operations to reach more children.

Under simplified procedures, SFSP sponsors receive the maximum amount of operating and administrative reimbursements (meals times rates) without regard to their actual or budgeted costs. This makes them exempt from the cost comparison requirements in SFSP regulations at 7 CFR 225.9(d)(7) and (d)(8). In addition, sponsors operating under simplified procedures may combine their operating and administrative reimbursements to pay for any allowable program costs.

Under simplified procedures, sponsors do not have to report their costs in order to receive reimbursement. However, sponsors must continue to maintain records of their costs and make them available for review or audit.

If the reimbursement exceeds the sponsor's cost, the excess funds should be used in the following ways, which are listed in order of importance:

1. Improve the meal service or other aspects of the summer food program
2. Keep the excess funds for next year's SFSP operations
3. Pay for allowable costs of other Child Nutrition Programs