

Guidance on Non-Congregate Meal Delivery Models

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO) — Illinois

The Illinois State Board of Education has received several inquiries regarding allowable delivery models for non-congregate meal service. This guidance is intended to clarify sponsor responsibilities and permissible practices.

Illinois does **not** permit the direct shipment of SFSP meals from a vendor or distribution center to a participant's home. All meals served under the SFSP must be subject to sponsor oversight to ensure compliance with program requirements, including meal pattern standards, food safety, and accountability.

To meet this requirement, sponsors must implement one of the following approved oversight models:

1. Sponsor-Prepared Meals

Sponsors may prepare meals on site and subsequently deliver or ship the meals to participants' homes using an approved delivery service.

2. Vendor-Prepared Meals with Sponsor Inspection

Vendors may deliver meals to the sponsor's approved location. Upon receipt, the sponsor is responsible for:

- Inspecting meals to verify all required meal components are included;
- Ensuring meals meet SFSP meal pattern and food safety requirements;
- Properly labeling meal packages; and
- Reshipping or delivering meals to participants.

Direct vendor-to-household delivery without sponsor inspection and verification is not permitted.

These procedures are required to maintain program integrity, ensure food safety, and ensure compliance with all SFSP regulations and state policy.

Sponsors with questions regarding allowable delivery models or implementation should contact the Summer Meals team for assistance.