



Find a Summer Food Service Program Sponsor: **A Guide for Organizations Interested in Hosting Summer Meals**

Want to Serve Meals but Not Become a Sponsor?

In the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), a site is the location where children receive meals, while a sponsor is the organization responsible for administering the program, including:

- Food ordering
- Financial management
- Reimbursement claims
- Staff training
- Site monitoring
- Recordkeeping and compliance

If your organization would like to host meals but does not want to take on the administrative and financial responsibilities of becoming a sponsor, you may be able to partner as an unaffiliated site with an existing sponsor.

What is an Unaffiliated Site?

An unaffiliated site is a meal site that is legally distinct from the sponsor but operates under the sponsor's oversight. Examples include:

- Community-based organizations
- Faith-based organization
- Libraries
- Schools
- Parks and recreation program
- Other community partners

How Can I Find a Sponsor?

Organizations interested in operating a meal site can:

- Contact a local SFSP sponsor directly
- Use the [USDA Capacity Builder Map](#) to find sponsors and sites that operated in previous years and obtain sponsor contact information

How Does the Process Work?

- Express interest: Contact an SFSP sponsor directly
- Sponsor review: The sponsor evaluates the proposed location, meal service type, and ability to meet SFSP requirements
- Complete the agreement: If approved, the sponsor and site complete an Unaffiliated Site Agreement
- Begin operations: After the agreement is signed, the site may begin operating under the sponsor's oversight



Benefits of Partnering with a Sponsor



- Focus on serving children, not program administration
- Receive training and technical assistance
- Expand meal access in your community
- Participate in SFSP without becoming a sponsor



Important Reminders



- Sponsors are not required to accept unaffiliated sites.
- For-profit sites have a number of restrictions when operating SFSP sites. Reach out to the Illinois State Board of Education for more information.
- Sponsors retain full responsibility for all SFSP requirements, regardless of site affiliation.
- The agreement must be maintained as part of the sponsor's SFSP records.

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