



Special Milk Program

What Is the Special Milk Program?

The Special Milk Program (SMP) provides milk to children in schools, child care institutions, and eligible camps that do not participate in other Federal child nutrition meal service programs. The SMP reimburses schools and institutions for the milk they serve. Schools participating in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs may serve milk through SMP to children enrolled in half-day pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs if those children do not have access to the breakfast or lunch meal service.

Who Administers SMP?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers SMP at the Federal level. At the State level, SMP is usually administered by State education agencies, which operate SMP through agreements with school food authorities.

How Does SMP Work?

Participating schools and institutions receive reimbursement from USDA for each half-pint of milk served. They must operate SMP on a nonprofit basis and must agree to use the Federal reimbursement to reduce the selling price of milk for all children. Participating entities may also choose to serve milk at no cost to all children, regardless of income.

How Can Participants Qualify for SMP?

Any child from a family that meets the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines for free meals is eligible to receive milk at no cost and may not be charged for milk. There is no reduced-price rate in SMP. To see the current Income Eligibility Guidelines, please visit: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/income-eligibility-guidelines>.

Where Can I Go To Learn More About SMP?

For more information, please contact the State agency responsible for administering SMP in your State: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/contacts>.

Whom at FNS Can I Contact To Discuss SMP?

Please contact the FNS Division of External and Governmental Affairs at fns.govaffairs@usda.gov.

Key Special Milk Program Data	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019 (estimate)
Half-Pints served (in millions)	47	45	41	38	35
Federal expenditures (in millions)	\$11	\$9	\$8	\$8	\$7