



Policy Resources

For all organizations participating in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), it is important to be aware of how the Program operates within the larger Federal framework. Here is information and resources that explain Federal policy related to this Summer Meal Program.

Go to [Resources](#).

History of SFSP

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act initially provided funding for Summer Meals in 1968. SFSP became a separate Program in 1975.

Who Administers SFSP?

The Program is administered at the Federal level by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The State education, agriculture, health, or social service department may be designated to administer SFSP at the State level. Locally, SFSP is operated by approved sponsors, including school districts, local government agencies, camps, or private nonprofit organizations.

How does SFSP Work?

Sponsors sign agreements with their State agencies to provide free meals to children at eligible sites in low-income areas, such as schools, parks, or community centers. Sponsors receive payments from USDA, through their State agencies, for serving meals that meet Federal nutritional guidelines. Reimbursement is based on the number and type of meals served.

Where does SFSP Operate?

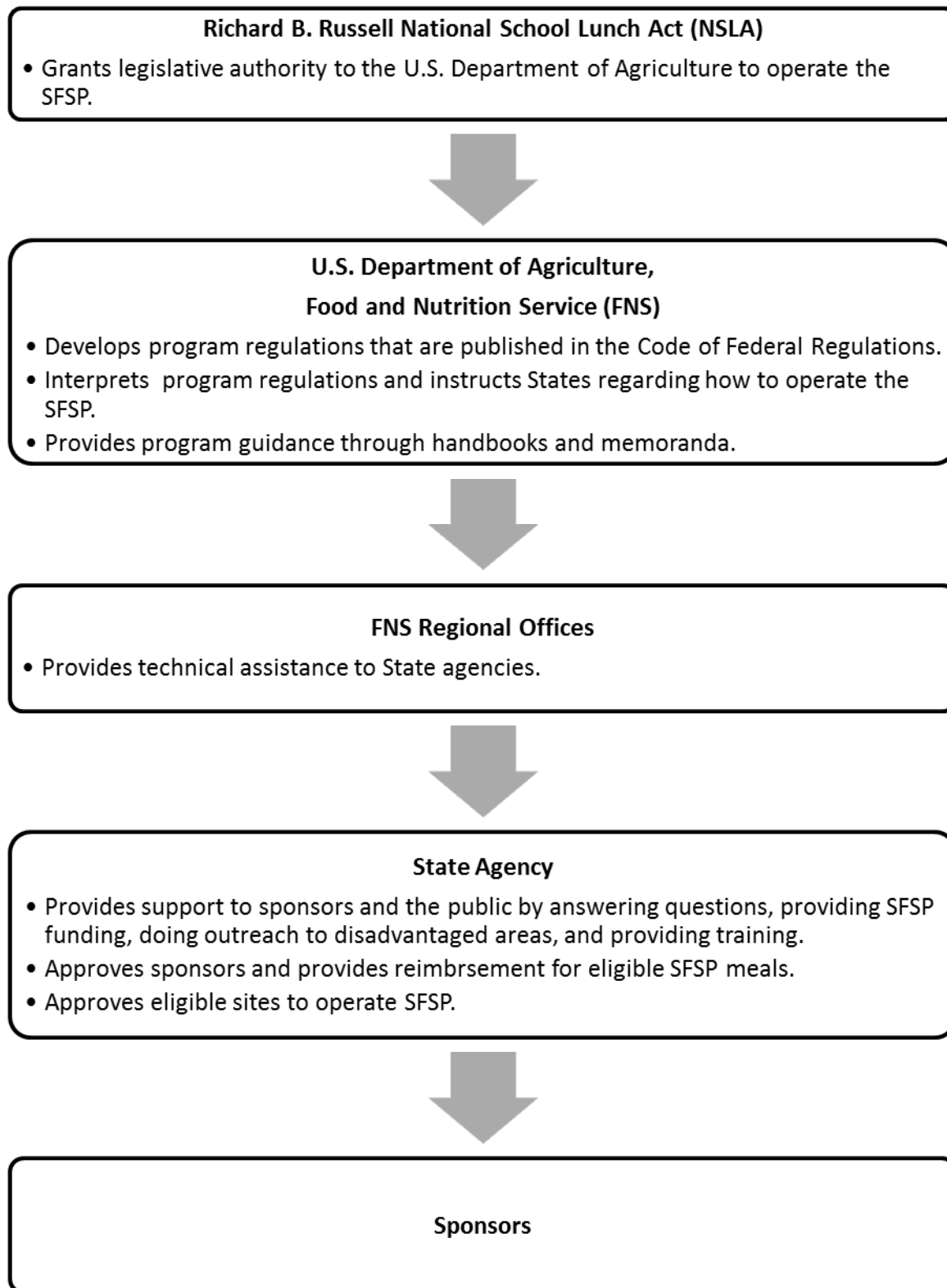
States approve SFSP meal sites as open, enrolled, or camp sites. Open sites operate in low-income areas where at least half of the children come from families with incomes at or below 185 percent of the Federal poverty level, making them eligible for free and reduced-price school meals. Meals are served free to any child attending an open site. Enrolled sites provide free meals to children enrolled in an activity program at the site where at least half of the children are eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Camps may also participate in SFSP. They receive payments only for the meals served to children who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals.



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Summer Meals Toolkit

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Resources

Code of Federal Regulations, 7 CFR 225

Legislative authority granted to the Department of Agriculture and operational provisions are codified here to inform State agencies and sponsors of Federal Program requirements.

<http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=f5e2a658639c8cc498b4f1eb3f189e9e&mc=true&node=pt7.4.225&rqn=div5>

Financial Management – Summer Food Service Program for Children

FNS Instruction 796-4, Revision 4 establishes standards, principles, and guidelines to assist States in the development and maintenance of financial management systems, including accounting information systems which are to be maintained by sponsors.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/financial-management-summer-food-service-program-children>

GovDelivery

FNS has a subscription feature for any new guidance that is issued related to the SFSP.

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFNS/subscriber/new>

Guidance

The legislative, regulatory, and policy requirements of the SFSP are compiled into easy to understand handbooks for sponsors, monitors, and site supervisors. These handbooks are updated annually, with highlighted changes, to ensure that all information is accurate:

- Administration Guide
- Sponsor Monitor's Guide
- Nutrition Guide
- Site Supervisor's Guide
- Guía Para el Supervisor del Sitio (Spanish)

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/handbooks>





Policy

Program memoranda clarify legislative and regulatory requirements of the SFSP.

Memoranda do not have the force of law, as they are intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements. Operational waivers and urgent changes to Program operations may be announced through memoranda, but are ultimately codified in the Code of Federal Regulations.

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/policy>

Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act

Enacted and reauthorized by Congress, section 13, 42 U.S.C. 1761, grants legislative authority to the Department of Agriculture to operate SFSP.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/richard-b-russell-national-school-lunch-act>

For Additional Information

Review these ideas and adopt the strategies that seem reasonable to you and achievable for your Program. The Summer Meals Toolkit has even more creative ideas and resources at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-meals-toolkit>

Do you have more questions? Sponsors and the general public should contact

List of FNS Regional Offices: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns-regional-offices>

List of State Agencies: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/sfsp-contacts>

USDA and its recipient institutions share responsibility for compliance and oversight to ensure good stewardship of Federal funds.

