



Seamless Summer Option

How can your State agency fight childhood hunger during the summer months if it does not administer the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)? The Seamless Summer Option offers a streamlined approach that allows school food authorities to provide Summer Meals under the same meal service rules and claiming procedures they use during the school year.

Ten Tips to Promote Seamless Summer

Even when Summer Meal Program responsibilities are split among separate agencies, your State agency can improve access to the good nutrition children need by promoting the Seamless Summer Option. Can these simple steps work in your State agency?

1. Participate in State partner meetings with SFSP administrators and key summer partners to coordinate planning, share ideas and leverage resources for Summer Meals.
2. Encourage school food authorities in unserved and underserved areas to expand their meal services for children through the Seamless Summer Option.
3. Improve participant retention by directly contacting school food authorities in the Seamless Summer Option to determine if they are returning and encouraging them to take on new sites, keep sites open longer, serve additional meals and add more operating days.
4. Where feasible, encourage school food authorities to expand their Seamless Summer Meal Programs to serve children at non-school sites.
5. Ensure that school food authorities cooperate with SFSP sponsors to distribute materials that inform families about the availability or free meals and site locations.



10/01/20

Summer Meals Toolkit

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6. Encourage school food authorities to publicize the location and meal times on the Summer Meal Site Finder and 2-1-1, before school ends, to help families find summer meal sites in their communities.
7. Ensure schools approved for the Seamless Summer Option promote the availability of Summer Meals and locations of their open sites to all children in the community.
8. Facilitate connections with State education partners, including associations of superintendents, principals, teachers, and parents.
9. Use State administrative expense funds to award contracts to partnering organizations working on Summer Meal Program expansion to support materials and expenses associated with community awareness efforts.
10. Participate in State partner debriefing meetings, at the end of the summer, to evaluate the success of the Summer Meal Programs and begin planning for next year.

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 their State agency for answers. State agencies should contact their Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Regional Office.

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>

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