



## Mobile Meal Delivery

A Summer Meal site is defined as a physical location at which a sponsor provides food services for children and where children consume meals in a supervised setting. Traditionally, sites are located at schools, parks, churches, community buildings, or other similar places. But serving meals in this setting is not always feasible.

In rural areas, children may live in isolated locations where access to meal service sites operated by schools, parks and recreation departments, and private nonprofit organizations is often limited. In urban areas, violence and traffic safety are examples of issues that may limit viable site location options.

Instead of requiring children to travel to meal service sites in areas that are far or unfavorable for congregate feeding, sponsors have the option to bring the meals to the children. This “mobile meal” model provides flexibility so sponsors can serve children who do not have access to traditional sites.

Go to [Resources](#).

### How it Works

A sponsor delivers meals to an area, using a route with stops at approved sites in the community. Each site is approved as an area-eligible open site. The meal service takes place on approved days and the sponsor serves reimbursable meals during approved service times. The meal service is supervised and all meals are consumed at the site, on the bus or near the drop-off location. For more information on the operating requirements, check out USDA policy guidance on mobile delivery options for Summer Meal Programs.

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/mobile-feeding-options-summer-feeding-programs-0>

Routing is especially important for rural and less densely populated areas. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has mapping tools to make it easier for sponsors to identify potential mobile delivery sites. The *Mobile Route Maker* will help you find gaps in service in the neediest areas, plan the most efficient monitoring routes, and determine routes to local food vendors to create fresh local meals.

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/mobile-route-maker>



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### Summer Meals Toolkit

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider,  
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## Spotlight on Alabama

In 2014, Alabama rolled out its first ever “Superfood Express,” a mobile feeding bus developed by Mobile County Public Schools (MCPSS). The Superfood Express, a surplus school bus outfitted with warmers, coolers, tables, lights, video and audio system, and canopy, was designed to provide children with a fun Summer Meal Program experience. MCPSS served meals to nearly 98,000 children in rural areas in its first year!

- *Mobile County Summer Feeding Bus*  
 This step-by-step guide shows how MCPSS retrofitted and transformed a school bus into the “Superfood Express” for summer meals.  
[http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sfsp/smt-mobile\\_buses.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sfsp/smt-mobile_buses.pdf)
- *Mobile Feeding Presented by Mobile County Public Schools*  
 MCPSS created a handbook on mobile feeding outlining everything from acquiring a bus to creating kid friendly menus. This is a great resource for sponsors considering this model!  
[http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sfsp/smt-mobile\\_manual.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sfsp/smt-mobile_manual.pdf)

## Promising Practices

See it in action! The following examples highlight model programs:

- **San Marcos, Texas**  
*Purple Bus Rolls with Mobile Meals for Families*  
<http://www.smcisd.net/news.cfm?story=1583>
- **New Haven, Connecticut**  
*Food Trucks Provide Free Summer Meals For Hungry Kids*  
<http://mobile-cuisine.com/off-the-wire/food-trucks-provide-free-summer-meals-for-hungry-kids/>





- **Pittsboro, North Carolina**  
*Teaming up to feed kids in summer*  
<http://philnc.org/2013/07/01/teaming-up-to-feed-kids-in-summer/>
- **Anne Arundel County, Maryland**  
*SFSP Best Practices in Maryland – Mobile Meals Partnership*  
[http://www.mdhungersolutions.org/fedfoodprogs/summer\\_best\\_practices.shtm](http://www.mdhungersolutions.org/fedfoodprogs/summer_best_practices.shtm)

## Resources

### USDA

- *Innovative Approach to Feeding At-Risk Children during Summer Shines in Florida*  
<http://blogs.usda.gov/2014/05/15/innovative-approach-to-feeding-at-risk-children-during-summer-shines-in-florida/>
- *Mapping Tools for Summer Meal Programs*  
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/mapping-tools-summer-meal-programs>
- *Summer Food Service Program Meals with a Healthy Summer Twist*  
<http://blogs.usda.gov/2014/08/13/summer-food-service-program-meals-with-a-healthy-southern-twist/>

### Share Our Strength

- *Mobile Meals Playbook*  
<http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/summer-meals/mobile-meals-playbook>
- *Summer Meals Toolkit and Guides for Collaborative Meetings*  
<http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/no-kid-hungry-summer-collaborative-planning-toolkit>

### Food Research and Action Center

*Targeting Mobile and Rural Organizations to Expand Reach of Summer Nutrition Programs*

[http://frac.org/conf\\_call\\_audio/sfsp/2016-apr-targeting-mobile-and-rural-orgs-sfsp.mp3](http://frac.org/conf_call_audio/sfsp/2016-apr-targeting-mobile-and-rural-orgs-sfsp.mp3)





## For Additional Information

Review these ideas and adopt the strategies that seem reasonable to you and achievable for your Program. Do you have more questions? Sponsors and the general public should contact their State agency for answers. State agencies should contact their 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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