



## State Agencies

The administering agency in your State is your best partner in making your Summer Meal Program a success! In addition to approving applications, processing claims, conducting training, and providing technical assistance, the State agency is a valuable resource to help raise awareness, address barriers to participation, and champion Summer Meals in communities throughout your State.

Here are some of the ways that the State agency can assist you:

- **Training**  
Prior to the start of Program operations, the State agency will make training available in all necessary areas of Program administration to sponsor personnel. This is an excellent opportunity to ask any questions you may have.
- **Monitoring**  
State agencies not only conduct reviews of sponsors, they visit and review sites as well. Onsite reviews provide another opportunity to clarify policies and ask questions.
- **Connecting with Other Partners**  
Your State agency can connect you with anti-hunger, Farm to Summer, and other strategic partners to build support for your Summer Meal Program. Many of these organizations have experience with and systems for communicating with the public.

The State agency can also connect you with experienced sponsors to help strengthen and grow your Program. Connecting similar types of sponsors allows a potential sponsor to develop realistic expectations of how the Program operates.

- **Identifying Unserved Areas**  
When looking to expand access to Summer Meal Programs, your State agency is the first place to turn. State agencies know where there are high-need, unserved areas to establish sites.



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- **Outreach to Schools**

State agencies can help you connect with schools to promote your sites. For example, State agencies that administer the National School Lunch Program have policies to encourage local education agencies to cooperate with sponsors to inform families of the availability and location of Summer Meal Programs.

## **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 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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