



Serving Adults: What You Need to Know

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sites are allowed and encouraged to serve meals to adults. Offering meals to adults can

- Boost family and community engagement;
- Create a more positive and enticing atmosphere;
- Provide children with healthy role models; and
- Increase participation and expand your site's impact on hunger and nutrition.

Adults with a Disability

Summer sites are allowed to provide free meals and claim reimbursement for meals served to:

- Children who are 18 years old or younger; and
- Adults who are more than 18 years old and are enrolled in educational programs for persons with disabilities.

Program and Non-Program Adults

Summer sites may also choose to serve meals to adults that do not meet the criteria listed above. These meals must be reported and claimed differently than those served to children or adults with a disability. How the meal is reported and claimed depends on whether the adult is a Program Adult or a Non-Program Adult.

Program Adults work directly with the meal service at the summer site as either a volunteer or an employee. Meals may be served free to Program Adults. Meals served to Program adults cannot be claimed for reimbursement but they may count as an operating cost.

Non-Program Adults do not work in any direct way with the meal service at the site. For example, parents or guardians are Non-Program Adults. Sponsor may choose to serve meals to Non-Program Adults at no charge or charge the full cost of the meal.

If a sponsor chooses to serve meals to Non-Program Adults, he/she cannot use SFSP funds to cover Non-Program Adult meals. When serving meals to Non-Program adults, the sponsor must charge the adult the full cost of the meal or use other non-Program funds to cover the full cost of the meal. The cost of meals served to Non-Program Adults may be counted as part of the sponsor's operating costs if the adult pays the full cost of the meal or non-Program funds cover the full cost of the meal and the money received is reported as income to the



Program. When using Non-Program funds to cover the cost of these meals, the sponsor may include those funds as Program income and pay for the meal cost from its nonprofit food service account.

The rules listed below must be followed when a sponsor chooses to serve meals to Program or Non-Program Adults:

1. All children must be fed first;
2. Income from the sale of adult meals and non-Program funds used to pay for adults meals must be documented as income to the Program to offset documented costs; and
3. Meals served to children (including second meals), Program Adults and Non-Program Adults must be counted and recorded separately on the daily meal count form.

The calculation of the meal costs should be based on the full cost of preparing the meal, including the food, supplies, labor and other costs paid for by the sponsor. Sponsors should also include the value of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foods used to prepare the meal or this value may be based on the current year entitlement per meal value of USDA Foods.

School Food Authorities and Seamless Summer Option Sponsors

School Food Associations (SFAs) operating under Seamless Summer Option (SSO) may not pay for Non-Program Adult meals through the nonprofit service account. However, SFAs may use other sources, such as the general fund account. The costs calculations do not affect the paid meal equity and non-Program equity provisions.

Success Story

In 2013, Connecticut was looking for creative ways to increase participation at their SFSP sites. The State agency established a strong relationship with End Hunger CT! Through this partnership, they funded adult meals for the parents of children eating at SFSP sites and significantly increased their sites' overall participation.

USDA Resources

Regulations and Policies

- **SFSP Regulations, 7 CFR 225**
<http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=&SID=ff728867ade2326e899b384a997eb643&n=pt7.4.225&r=PART&ty=HTML>
- **Meal Service Requirements, SP 13-2015 (v.2), SFSP 05-2015 (v.2), Summer Meal Programs Meal Service Requirements Revised Q&As- Revised,**



Summer Meals Toolkit

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<http://www.fns.usda.gov/summer-meal-programs-meal-service-requirements-gas-revised>

Handbooks and Other Tools

- **Administrative Guide for Sponsors**
This guide provides useful information on how to operate a summer site, including information on serving meals to adults.
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/AdminGuideSponsors.pdf>
- **Innovative Strategies: Meal Service Issues**
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Meals.pdf>

Toolkit pages

- **How to Establish Meal Service Times**
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cnd/SMT-MealServiceTimes.pdf>
- **How to Use Offer Versus Serve**
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cnd/SMT-OfferVersusServe.pdf>
- **Family Style Meals: A New Way to Teach Healthy Habits**
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cnd/SMT-FamilyStyleMeals.pdf>
- **What to Do with Leftover Meals**
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cnd/SMT-LeftoverMeals.pdf>
- **Successfully Operating a Congregate Feeding Site**
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cnd/SMT-CongregateFeeding.pdf>

Additional Information

Sponsors and the general public should contact the appropriate State agency for additional guidance. State agencies should contact their FNS Regional Office for additional guidance.

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

List of State Agencies: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Contacts/StateDirectory.htm>

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



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