

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM Information for Public Libraries

WHAT IS THE SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (SFSP)?

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) was established to ensure that low income children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session. Free meals, that meet federal nutrition guidelines, are provided to all children at approved SFSP sites in areas with significant concentrations of low income children. The SFSP Income Eligibility Standards are the same as those used for reduced-price eligibility in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. The SFSP is operated at the local level by program sponsors and is administered in Michigan by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Office of School Support Services.

HOW CAN LIBRARIES COLLABORATE?

Public libraries can contact local sponsors to discuss the possibility being a food site within the sponsor's local program. Being a food site can then be part of the library's Summer Reading program. Libraries can also contact local sponsors to provide Summer Reading programming at other local food sites. Libraries can find local sponsors at <http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/schoolnutrition/>. New program year information is typically confirmed in June.

WHICH CHILDREN CAN PARTICIPATE?

1. Children who are 18 years of age or younger.
2. Disabled persons, regardless of age, who are determined by MDE or a local public educational agency (school district or public school academy) to be mentally or physically disabled and who participate in a public or non-profit private school program established for the mentally or physically disabled.

WHO ARE PROGRAM SPONSORS?

Organizations that may sponsor the program are:

1. Public or private non-profit sponsors of the National School Lunch Program.
2. Public or private non-profit residential summer camps.
3. State, local, municipal, or county government entities.
4. Public or private non-profit colleges or universities.
5. Private non-profit organizations that provide ongoing activities for children or families.

A potential sponsor must demonstrate the necessary financial and administrative capability to meet program objectives and comply with program regulations. Sponsors must also accept final financial and administrative responsibility for all sites under their jurisdiction.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAM

Persons desiring to apply for the program or receive further information may click on Request SFSP Information under Prospective Sponsors at www.michigan.gov/sfsp.