



# Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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## Informational Letter

### Section 1

<b>Transmittal:</b>	19-INF-04
<b>To:</b>	Social Services District Commissioners
<b>Issuing Division/Office:</b>	Employment and Income Support Programs
<b>Date:</b>	June 28, 2019
<b>Subject:</b>	2019 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
<b>Suggested Distribution:</b>	SNAP Benefits Staff, Temporary Assistance Staff, Services Staff
<b>Contact Person(s):</b>	SNAP Bureau at: (518) 473-1469
<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">Attachment 1: 2019 SED SFSP Resource Order Form</a>
<b>Attachment Available Online:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
18-INF-08 17-INF-08 16-INF-08 15-INF-06 14-INF-08 13-INF-04 12-INF-09			7 CFR 225 7 CFR 225.2		

### Section 2

#### I. Purpose

The purpose of this release is to provide updated information to social services districts (districts) about the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), a program administered by the New York State Education Department (NYSED). The SFSP offers the opportunity for children 18 years of age and younger, as well as disabled young adults over age 18 enrolled in school programs for persons with disabilities, to receive free, nutritious meals during the summer months when schools are not in session.

## II. Background

Today, while nearly 1.6 million children in New York State receive free or reduced-price school meals for nine months out of the year, only approximately 400,000 children participate in SFSP. The SFSP was created to reduce the likelihood of nutritional risk for low income children during the months when schools are closed for summer recess. By providing free meals at participating summer meal sites such as schools, parks, pools, recreation centers, camps, housing authorities and other neighborhood locations, children can receive the nutritious meals they need. Through SFSP, schools, governments and nonprofit organizations receive federal and State funds to continue a child's physical and social development with the number of meals and dates varying by site.

Because summer meal sites are selected based on community demographics and pervasiveness of need, any child 18 years of age or younger who comes to an approved open site may receive meals without the need for an eligibility determination to be conducted. Most Summer Meal Program sites are 'open sites', which means they are open to the community and do not require that children sign up in advance or even 'check-in' at the site. Children and teens must simply show up at the site to get their meal. At camps, children eligible for free and reduced-price meals may receive SFSP meals. Young adults over age 18 who are enrolled in school programs for persons with disabilities may also participate.

## III. Program Implications

The USDA Summer Meal Program can help families, currently in receipt of SNAP, with replacing the school meals their children receive during the school year. Getting the word out to SNAP families about Summer Meals is a key factor to ensure that children who rely on school breakfast and lunch during the school year have access to good nutrition this summer. The SFSP will operate this summer throughout New York State from June 17 through September 2, 2019.

Districts are asked to help increase SFSP awareness by:

- Including the following information about the SFSP on your county website regularly visited by SNAP applicants and recipients:
  - Calling 2-1-1 (Upstate), 3-1-1 (NYC) will provide SFSP information
  - USDA National Hunger Hotline: 866-3-HUNGRY or 877-8-HAMBRE
  - Letting users know that more information may be found at: [www.Summermealsny.org](http://www.Summermealsny.org)
  - Online mapping tool is available to locate the nearest open sites: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks>
- Informing clients, they may also use the text hotline. Texting "food" or "comida" to 877-877 will provide the closest open site data information.
- Posting SFSP information in your lobby using the SFSP posters, providing Summer Meal Programs flyers at the front reception desk, and including SFSP flyers in TA/SNAP application packets in June, July and August. SFSP materials may be requested by using the attached **2019 SFSP Resource Order form**. Other promotional materials may be found at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/raise-awareness>.
- Collaborating with various community based partners, such as your local Nutrition Outreach Provider and area food assistance organizations, to coordinate efforts to increase participation in the SFSP. Flyers in both English and Spanish, are available to let your

community based organizations and SNAP families know about the availability of summer meals and how to find meal locations near them.

- Adding messages about Summer Meal Programs to your social media communications. Use the Twitter hashtag #summermeals, tag @USDANutrition, and promote the Summer Meal Site Finder at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks>.

**OTDA has taken the following steps to increase SFSP program awareness:**

- All Client Notice Systems (CNS) notices for TA households with children and SNAP openings, recertifications, and re-opening transactions include the following information about the Summer Food Service Program:

Summer should be a stress-free time full of food, friends and fun. Free summer meals can help. During the summer months, children 18 and under can receive free, nutritious meals at Summer Food Service Program meal sites. Many sites also offer fun activities, so kids and teens can stay active and spend time with friends while enjoying healthy meals. Meals and snacks are also available to persons with disabilities, over age 18, who participate in school programs for people who are mentally or physically disabled. To locate a site in your community or for further information, please call the National Hunger Hotline at: 1-866-3-HUNGRY, text “food” or “comida” to 877-877, or go to: [www.Summermealsny.org](http://www.Summermealsny.org).

- **myBenefits.ny.gov** includes SFSP information, scroll down to click on “Summer Meal Program” to find the SFSP information.
- The myBenefits Prescreening Tool provides a link to users with children for free summer meals. The link brings the user to the Hunger Solutions of New York, “Find Free Summer Meals” webpage.
- The OTDA Internet site includes SFSP information on the “Summer Food Service Program” webpage: <http://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/nutrition.asp>.
- The following message will run from June 1, 2019 until August 31, 2019 on the EISP hotline and be posted on the New York EBT Cardholder Website: [www.connectebt.com/nyebtclient](http://www.connectebt.com/nyebtclient). EBT cardholders must be registered to the website with a valid User ID and Password to view the message:

*During the summer months, children 18 years old or younger are eligible to receive free, nutritious meals at participating Summer Food Service meal sites. For further details about the program in your community, please contact the toll-free helpline at: 1-866-3-HUNGRY, text “food” or “comida” to 877-877 or go to: [www.Summermealsny.org](http://www.Summermealsny.org).*

Thank you for your support in improving access to healthy, nutritious meals for low-income children during the summer months.

**Issued By**

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**Title:** Deputy Commissioner  
**Division/Office:** Employment and Income Support Program/Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance