

Summer Food Service Program Webinar Transcript SFSP Public Session 2

Thank you. Hello, everybody, and welcome. Thank you for joining us today for the Summer Food Service Program webinar. My name is Sarah Gold, and I work in the Office of Strategic Initiatives Partnerships and Outreach here at the Food and Nutrition Service. Before I get into our presentation today, I'd like to review some logistics involved in using the webinar tool. Handouts for today's session can be found in the "Handout" tab of the Live Meeting tool. The "Handout" tab is on the top right-hand side of your screen, and it looks like three little pieces of paper. By clicking that tab, you'll see the handouts available for you today to download directly to your computer; and what we have in there right now is today's presentation and some contact information that you might find helpful.

There will be a question and answer session following today's presentation. You'll be able to ask the questions through the webinar tool by clicking on the "Q&A" tab located at the top left-hand side of your screen or directly over the phone by pressing "*1," and we'll remind you of both of those when the time comes.

This session is being recorded, and it will be available online, on demand in the near future. Further information will be e-mailed out to all of the registrants, so we'll notify you when it's available. With all that being said, let's get started.

To begin, I'll be taking you through the nuts and bolts of the Summer Food Service Program; and then we'll have some time for questions and answers, like I said. And I am joined today by my colleague, Susan \INAUDIBLE\, who will be our technical program expert because she works with the program in the Child Nutrition Division here at FNS.

So the Summer Food Service Program -- it provides free, nutritious meals to children in mostly low-income areas. Participating children must be eighteen years of age or younger. The summer program operates when school is not in session -- typically from the end of the school year in late May or early June until school resumes, usually in late August or early September. And we know these dates vary widely across the country, depending on when the school year ends in a district; and programs tend to come in and out throughout the summer, depending on when they want to serve the children in that community and what their capacity is.

The Summer Food Service Program is federally funded; but it is administered by a State agency - - which is generally the Department of Education and, in a couple of states, the Department of Agriculture.

So why are we coming to you today with this presentation? We need your help to make this program work. There are over eighteen million children in the country that are eligible for the summer program, and only about three million of them receive meals. The problem with low participation is especially critical in rural areas where transportation issues and other obstacles can occur. Regardless of your location, there's a good chance that a program is needed in a community near you. We need new sponsoring organizations that will put a program together and feed hungry children.

There are many benefits to the Summer Food Service Program, the first of which we already mentioned. It provides free, nutritious meals to children in low-income areas. In many communities, the two meals received by the children may be the only ones they receive each day during their summer vacation. The program gives children the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow. This food energy will help them properly develop and stay healthy to begin the new school year.

The program helps low-income families stretch their food buying dollar during the summer months. Remember, while the child is in school, lunch and many times school breakfast is provided to the child at no charge, or very little cost, for nine months of the year. And let's not talk about the eating machine a teenage boy can be. We know that this is the only meal that some of

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those kids get during the school year, and we want to replicate that with this program during the summer.

And last, the activities and programs for these children provided at summer food sites help keep them mentally engaged and ready to learn when the school year begins.

The Summer Food Service Program provides up to two meals per child, per day. Any combination of two meals may be served, except lunch and supper. Normally, a program will provide a breakfast when the children arrive and then provide a lunch before the children leave the site. There is an exception to this two-meal rule. Camps, as well as sites that serve children of migrant workers, may serve up to three meals per day. And all the meals served must meet USDA standards to be eligible for reimbursement. A typical lunch may consist of a meat and a cheese sandwich, carrot sticks, an apple, and a carton of milk -- basically, your basic nutritious lunch for a kid.

The summer program begins when a community works with a State agency. State agencies are responsible for all administrative requirements of the program. To participate in the SFSP, each sponsoring organization must sign an agreement with the State agency. The agreement sets forth the responsibilities of the State and the sponsor. The State is also responsible for providing training and technical assistance to all sponsors. States want sponsors to succeed, so they will take every step necessary to assist both new and experienced sponsors.

State agencies are also responsible for monitoring the operations of participating sponsoring organizations. So when we say "sponsoring organizations," what we're talking about is really the bread and the butter of the summer program. The sponsoring organizations report to the State, and they're responsible for a wide range of functions. First, they accept the financial and administrative responsibility for the program. Second, they manage the food service. This means the sponsor must have food preparation facilities or the capability to oversee a food service management contract. Sponsors also train and monitor sites and site personnel. So in other words, we just talked about the State trains the sponsors; and then in turn, the sponsors train the sites -- which we'll get into in the next slide. The sponsors also arrange for meals at each site; oversee the operations at each feeding site; assure all paperwork is completed accurately and in a timely manner; and most importantly, that sponsoring organization submits claims for reimbursement.

So several types of organizations can be sponsors of the Summer Food Service Program. They include such groups as community and faith-based organizations, private non-profit organizations, local government, school systems, colleges and universities participating in the National Youth Sports Program, migrant centers, and Indian reservations. And really this is just sort of the tip of the iceberg. There are probably a long, long, long list of organizations even in your community; and maybe your organization is one of these types, or maybe it's a different type that is also eligible to sponsor the Summer Food Service Program.

And I started to talk to you about how sponsors are responsible for training the feeding sites. Now, the feeding site can be basically anywhere where children gather, where there's a safe place to serve the food. A feeding site can be located in a number of places, indoors and out of doors. The sites could include parks; swimming pools; community and recreation centers; churches; playgrounds; housing projects; camps, both residential and non-residential; schools; migrant centers; libraries; just about anywhere where there are children. We've even had conversations about restaurants operating a summer food site -- anywhere where food can be served that meets the USDA requirements and where the children will be safe.

When we talk about sites, there are a couple different types of sites that have to do with how a program operates. We basically talk about two types, and the first site is an open site. At an open site, the meals are served free to all children eighteen years of age or younger. There's no need for paperwork, so anybody who shows up -- let's say that we're talking about a site that's

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one of the libraries -- any kid who comes into that library, age eighteen or younger, can get a meal. They don't need to sign their names -- fill out paperwork. That site is area eligible, which I'll explain in a minute.

The second type is an enrolled site. These sites require the child's family to complete an enrollment form and a household income application.

So to go further into that, in order for a site to be eligible, it must meet one of the two criteria. For an open site, the location where meals will be served must be located in a school attendance area where 50% or more of the children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. The 50% criteria is based upon school data or census data. So if your organization listening today is interested in starting an open summer food site, you're going to be able to go to that school district or school operating area -- school food authorities -- and ask the question if 50% or more of the students in that area are eligible for free or reduced-price meals; or you can find that information by looking up the income data on the census. And either one of those is fine with us. Your State agency can provide substantial technical assistance in making these determinations as well. They'll have that information for you.

For an enrolled site, families must submit a household income application for each child enrolled in the program. If 50% of the applications demonstrate eligibility for free or reduced-price meals, then the site may serve free meals to all children. These criteria may sound a bit confusing; but, again, your State agency will help you through the process, and they will be the best help in determining what kind of site you should be.

And as always, there's an exception to the rule. We've got two exceptions here to the basic site eligibility rules. Residential and non-residential summer camps may serve up to three meals per child, per day; however, only meals served to children who meet the free or reduced-price meals criteria, based upon household income applications, will be reimbursed -- no matter what the percentage is.

Second -- the second exception is for feeding sites that primarily serve children of migrant workers. In order for the site to be determined eligible, the location must be certified by a migrant organization. Then the site may serve up to three meals per child, per day to all children. And again, this is getting into a little bit of the nitty gritty; but we just want to give you an idea of the flexibility of the program and some of the general rules. I couldn't say it enough, your State agency will be able to help you to navigate through these rules and determine which site you should be.

So the USDA provides reimbursements to defray the costs of operating the program. And like we said before, if you think about it as a flow chart, USDA provides the reimbursement to the State; the State provides the reimbursement to the sponsoring organizations. So what's covered under the reimbursement? There's a bunch of different costs that's altogether under one reimbursement per meal, and that includes both operating costs and administrative costs. So the food supplies, paperwork, training, monitoring -- all of that is included under one reimbursement.

So what can you do? The first thing you did is sign onto this webinar to learn more, and we love that. We're so happy that so many of you joined us today. What you can do as an organization is think about becoming a sponsor. Sometimes organizations are ready to go year one, and they can take on the administrative work that we've talked about -- taking care of all of the claiming to the State, training sites, that sort of thing. That's great if your organization can step up and become a sponsor. Other ways to get involved though are to become a feeding site. You can call your State agency, find out who the existing sponsors in your area already are for the summer, and ask them if you can become a site. That means that you just work with that sponsor to be the location that serves the food instead of taking on the full administrative burden.

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There's a lot of other ways you can help as well. We basically need help in anything that you can offer. You can oversee an activity at a feeding site. Many folks spend their summers looking for interesting and innovative activities for children. We even had a zoo representative bring animals to feeding sites for Show and Tell. So if your organization does something like sports or arts and crafts or any sort of those summer activities for kids, we need you to volunteer to hook up with those feeding sites and those sponsoring organizations to provide that for kids. And if you have meal preparation facilities, you could be a meal vendor as well. And as a vendor, you would enter into a contract with a sponsor to provide the meals for all of the sites.

So if you're interested and this sounds good to you, here's just a list of a few organizations that you might want to contact to obtain community information or to form partnerships. And they're not necessarily always the usual suspects; you can sort of think outside the box here, because the best solutions to making a great Summer Food Service Program are working with people who are invested in the local community. And we know that's different for each community. So we've got a list here of different ideas to sort of start the thinking. Mayors' offices will know what community organizations are looking to do more this summer. County extension agencies will be familiar with this program. Boys and Girls Clubs, Salvation Army -- we've got tons of Salvation Army sites. Police and fire departments, local community groups like the Rotary Club -- they can possibly help with transportation issues. If you'll remember, I talked about transportation being a problem, especially in rural areas. You know, maybe the Rotary Club has a van; and they'll be willing to help either deliver meals or deliver children to the sites. Either way, it's a great partnership. Local libraries often have summer reading programs, and they also have buildings that are suitable for serving meals. Contact these organizations. Don't be afraid to start forming those relationships in your community that might be helpful.

And a couple keys for success. We've sort of gone over it quickly, but we know that a first step to a successful program is really offering creative and fun activities for kids and teens. Their meal is often not enough to draw the children to a site; however, add one or two meals to an ongoing recreation program, and you might have a winning combination. Partner it with -- like we were talking about -- you know, that zoo animal expert who comes and brings the State to the parks to show the kids for the day -- anything that will kind of draw the kids in, and we can feed them at the same time. And, like we were talking about in the last slide, partnerships are becoming more important as funding for children's programs continues to decrease. Your organization might not be able to go it alone as a summer food sponsor. But maybe there are two other organizations just like you who are looking for those grants and money to do things with kids in the summer. Fill the partnership for summer food and make it happen in your community.

Next we would like you to think about involving parents whenever you can. Parents often know the community and the neighborhood children very well, and are often your best source of information. Be resourceful and innovative, looking for opportunities -- especially unlikely ones. For instance, in rural Nebraska, a sponsor was having difficulty finding a meal vendor. They approached a local hospital; and that hospital was very interested and needed very little technical assistance on how to serve nutritious meals.

Above all, you need to find a local champion -- especially in rural areas. This is someone who will go the extra mile to get the job done. This person needs to know and understand that starting a program, especially in a rural area, might be difficult at first but that his or her hard work will pay off in the end. Local champions are creative, innovative, and self-starters. Every community has a few local champions, and you just need to find them. And I have a feeling that some of you on the line today are those local champions because you took the step to actually listen in today on today's call.

So we'll wrap it up, and start some questions and answers. But before we do that, I just want to remind everybody that the best way to get started with the Summer Food Service Program is to contact your State. We have the State contact information in the handouts today; and as well, you can find them on our summer food website, www.summerfood.usda.gov. And we have

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actually just updated that website with lots of great new information. All of the information I talked about today can be found there plus much, much more detail. So with that being said, I think it's a great time to start the questions and answers.

Operator, can you remind everybody how to get in line to ask the questions?

Thank you. If you would like to ask a question, please press "*1," unmute your phone, and record your name clearly when prompted. I will require your name to introduce your question. If you need to withdraw your question, please press "*2." Again, to ask a question, please press "*1" and record your name. It will take a few moments for the questions to come through. Please stand by.

Okay, while we're waiting for our questions to come in through the phone, we do have one question here that came in over the webinar tool: "What will the reimbursement rate be for 2010?"

I'd first like to point out that that information is currently listed on our website. So if you go to www.summerfood.usda.gov, you can find current summer food reimbursement rates. I'll just go through very quickly here the reimbursements for 2010, because I'm sure that a lot of people are interested in this. Breakfast is about \$1.00 for rural -- I'm sorry, these are rural or self-prep reimbursements here -- for breakfast, it's about \$1.85. For lunch, it's about \$3.25. For supper, it's about \$3.25; and for a snack, it's a little more than 75¢. For urban or vended sites, breakfast is about \$1.80; lunch is about \$3.20; supper is about \$3.20; and a snack is, again, about 75¢. And there's a lot more information about that and what that all really means on the website.

Operator, do we have any questions in the queue?

Yes, we do. The first question comes from Janice Bennett. Your line is open.

Yes, I'm just trying -- thank you for everything. I'm just trying to, again, find out about where we can get the written information about all this stuff that you -- all of this information that you were talking about. I just need the website because I need to print that out.

Sure. The website is www.summerfood.usda.gov -- all one word --.usda.gov.

Okay, and I can print that out for -- because I'm sitting -- what I'm doing, as I explained to Emily, is I'm sitting in for the person who usually does this -- who usually participates. She had a meeting today.

Sure.

And so I just want to make sure -- I took some notes, but I just want to make -- I just want to validate what I was writing down as you were talking.

Yeah, everything that I said is available on the website.

Okay, www.summerfood.usda.gov.

Yes, and are you connected to the webinar today as well -- listening by phone?

[Laughter] I'm connected to the web -- I'm not sure.

Are you listening to the presentation on the computer?

I'm looking at your website right now.

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Okay. Yeah, you'll be able to find this information on the website.

Okay, and it's a really good program. I've worked in summer camps where this program is helping feed the kids. It's a really good program.

Thank you; yeah, we agree.

Okay, so thank you.

Thank you very much.

You have a nice day, all of you.

Thank you; you too.

We have another question here coming in over the webinar tool: "Can you participate in the summer food program and only serve breakfast at a summer day camp for school age children?"

Yes, you can participate and only serve one meal a day; and that meal could be breakfast. The program lets you decide which meals you're going to serve. That's not a problem.

Another question over the webinar tool here: "Is it required for the site to offer an activity?"

No, it is not a program requirement that you offer an activity; but just because it's not a requirement doesn't mean that we don't know that that's what works the best. But if in your community there's some sort of circumstance where you would want to do that without an activity and that would work for you, that's fine. It's just research shows us that the draw of a meal is not necessarily enough usually to get a real robust summer food program going; but if you add an activity to that meal service, it draws more children in. So not a program requirement, we just strongly recommend it.

Operator, is there another question in the queue?

Yes, there is. The next question comes from Francine. Your line is open.

Yes, hi. I need to know if a business site -- a business can be a site for a summer feeding program? It's next door to a community outreach center, and they do have the kitchen facility that the business does. I want to know, would that be an appropriate site?

Yes, a business can be a site. A private company cannot be a sponsoring organization. So you would need a sponsor that is eligible. But a business could be a site where the food is served.

Okay, what -- if the business is -- if the sponsor is a non-profit, for example --

Mm-hmm.

It does not have to be at their location -- they could have it at the site somewhere else.

Right, exactly. A sponsoring organization probably -- usually has a site themselves. But they might have a partnership going with many different organizations where there actually are feeding sites.

But then you said they do have to be a site themselves?

No, not necessarily.

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Okay.

I mean, most often they are, but not necessarily.

Because here we're a rural area; and, again, like you were saying, transportation and children getting to us. We participated with another participant last year, and we were just trying to -- they provide their own transportation, whereas we don't have the transportation to go get the children to bring to us. But you said an outdoor site like just setting up picnic tables or something like that in a neighborhood would be okay as a site?

Yeah, the requirement is that it's a congregate meal -- so the children need to eat together at the location.

Right.

And of course we would want to make sure that it's a safe location for children.

Mm-hmm.

But, yes, you can do feeding sites outside in the park with -- you know, under a veranda at picnic tables -- that sort of thing. Yeah, that's perfectly fine.

Okay. When you say a "safe environment," how do we dictate the best -- that the environment is safe for the children?

You're going to want to talk to your State agency about that, and they'll help you work through where it's appropriate and where it's not.

Extension service maybe or --

You're going to find your State contacts on our website.

Okay.

There's usually -- it's the -- there's a department within the Department of Education that runs the summer food program for the State. There's a couple exceptions to that, but we have it all listed on the website; and you'll be able to find the right phone number.

Okay, thank you.

Yup. Operator, do you have another caller in the queue?

We do actually have several more.

Great.

The next one is from -- I believe the name is Sammie Ball. Your line is open.

Yes, we have a community center that we actually have an after-school program at -- like the kitchen facilities. Is there going to have to be like a State inspection or anything that's going to have to be involved to do -- like to be able to have the food here or anything?

Yeah, there are some monitoring and inspection requirements. Your State will be able to tell you exactly what those are. They're similar to other requirements for food safety and food prep and those sorts of things. But your State will tell you the exact monitoring requirements.

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Okay.

Thank you.

Thank you.

We have another question here coming over the webinar tool: "The reimbursement rate that you were referring to -- is that for sponsors providing the food?"

Yes, that is the reimbursement goes to the sponsors who are responsible for all of the meal counting that they do at each site. The site will keep track of their count of meals, turn it over to the sponsor; and the sponsor is reimbursed. So I hope that answers your question.

Let's see, we have another question here coming in over the webinar: "Are there a limited amount of sites that are approved in a certain geographic area, and how do I find out if these are approved sites in my area?"

There are sometimes -- your State will be able to tell you. There is a consideration for -- we don't want competing sites, you know, down the street from each other in a geographic area. States are responsible for monitoring that, and they make the decisions as to where we can have new sites opening. So your best bet is going to be, again, to contact your State to find out locally where there's need and where we already have good coverage.

Do we have the next question over the phone?

The next question comes from Sarah Pelmer. Your line is open.

Yes, thank you. My thought is, I'm very involved. My son is six, and he's very involved in YMCA after-school program. And through the summer, they do offer, you know, summer camps and so forth; but it's at a charge. And normally, the children have to bring their own lunches and so forth. And so my thought was to try and get involved with our YMCA to be able to offer this program. It sounds like they have it at our local park -- their summer program. So what are your thoughts? Would that be something that I should kind of search that avenue to get involved with them?

Yeah, I think that sounds like a great idea. Without knowing, you know, the specific details of the situation, I think contacting the YMCA, and in turn maybe helping them get in contact now that you have access to the contact information in your state, hooking them up together and going through and seeing if that would be an eligible site for summer food. You know, it sort of amazes us how many places aren't taking advantage of this stream of federal funding and don't know that it's there.

Right, and you know, we've got a lot of children that can't go because they can't afford the cost of the summer camp even.

Right, right.

So that was just kind of my thought.

Yeah, sounds like a great -- the wheels are turning. It sounds like a great thought, and I would definitely try to have them investigate that with the State.

Fine. And also I've worked at a local hospital for many years. And I'm in contact with their Food Service Nutrition Program Director there. So even if the YMCA might need help with, you know, food --

Mm-hmm.

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To partner up with our local hospital, who's a non-profit Catholic organization.

Yeah, I mean that all sounds like exactly the way it works best. The way this program works is to have people think about the resources that are local to your community and sort of patchwork together the best way to feed those kids. So it's just exactly what we need. Thank you so much.

Yeah, and the part of -- how would the paying -- like the YMCA would have to pay their, of course their staff -- which I guess they would anyway. So the help to them would be offering meals throughout the day for their kids.

Right, and the State will help them work through exactly how to work it. So, yeah, it's a great idea.

Thank you.

Thank you very much.

We have a question here over the webinar: "Have you considered other options in rural areas such as having children come to a site one day per week and get a backpack of food for the entire week?"

It's a great thought; unfortunately, we're limited by the regulations and the legal authority to operate the program. It is a congregate meal program. So one of the requirements is that the children eat any meal that is served -- funded by this program -- together at a congregate feeding site. So it makes sense -- it's a great thought. But, unfortunately, we are limited by the regulations and the letter of the law to the program here.

Operator, do you want to pull up the next question?

Sure, the next question is from M. Brown. Go ahead, your line is open.

I think my question has been answered, but I was trying to distinguish between a sponsor and a feeding site. And it sounds like the sponsor is the individual that's responsible for delivering the food, and the feeding site is the area that would actually bring the children in and distribute the food.

Right, exactly. We make the differentiation because a sponsor is the organization that's administratively responsible for the accounting with the State. But they can work with any number of different organizations who just provide the actual place where the meal is served.

Okay. So if you have someone that's interested in becoming a feeding site, then we need to contact -- do we get our own sponsor, or what is the process to participate as a feeding site?

That's a great question. What you would want to do is contact your State agency and get a list of the sponsoring organizations in your area. And there's probably one that's close enough to you geographically that you would call them and say, Are you interested in having more sites this summer? And you could join in under their umbrella. There isn't anything stopping you from finding your own sponsor -- if there is some organization that you have in mind that might want to get involved. So you could do it either way. But the simplest way to get involved is to find an existing sponsor of the program and to ask if you can become a site under their sponsorship.

Okay, thank you.

Yup. Operator, next question?

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The next question is from Sandra. Your line is open.

Hi. We are a food bank, and we provide meals to enrolled sites in after-school programs throughout the school year; and we're reimbursed through CACFP. Is there any reason why we cannot switch to SFSP during the summer months? Not only is the reimbursement greater that way, but then we can also feed the kids ages thirteen through eighteen.

That's an excellent question. I'm going to turn this one over to our program expert, Susan.

Hi. Thanks for your question. What I would suggest is that you contact the State agency to find out what the requirements are. There are a number of organizations that do, in fact, participate in both programs. If they are serving different groups of children, and they are keeping their program management separate -- and the State agency can tell you whether or not the program that you are operating would be eligible for -- to participate in the Summer Food Service Program along with the other program that you are currently participating in.

Well, what we were hoping is that we would participate -- you know, be reimbursed through CACFP just during the school year and switch over to the Summer Food Service Program during the summer months. It's an easier-to-handle program through those months; and, as I said, last year we received no reimbursement for any of the kids that we fed over the age of twelve because it was CACFP. So we were just wondering if we would be able to not, you know, be reimbursed through CACFP in the summer, and therefore get that reimbursement through the Summer Food Service Program.

Okay, that is a question that you'll want to raise with the State administering agency.

Okay. Yeah, I have started to speak to them about it, so -- great.

Thank you. Good luck to you.

Thank you.

Okay, we have another question here coming in over the webinar: "Can you speak further about the summer camp exception? What is the definition of a camp, and why do they need to complete household eligibility forms even if the percentage of free and reduced is over 50%?"

Well, I'll answer -- one part of the question is that because a summer camp is not open to the public, and that's why it changes the rules in terms of the 50% free and reduced. As for the definition of a camp -- Susan, do you know what we use as the definition of a camp?

No, the regulations will define exactly what an eligible residential or non-residential camp is. And, again, your State agency staff will be able to give you some guidance on whether or not your organization would be -- would benefit by participating as a camp or as an enrolled site. The difference -- the important difference of course -- is the fact that as a camp only the meals served to children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals are eligible for reimbursement; where at an enrolled site, all of the meals are eligible for reimbursement. But, again, it's your State agency that will provide you with the best guidance.

Operator, do you have the next question over the phone?

We do. The next question comes from Kim. Your line is open.

Thank you so much -- I agree -- thank you so much for having this conference today. My question has kind of like been answered with some of the other callers, but I needed to find this out from you. We are a non-profit organization that also serves meals on a three-day basis. Now would this summer camp program -- would it have to be on five days?

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No, it does not have to be five days a week. There is large flexibility in how many meals you serve and when you serve them. So you can be a site that serves meals only on certain days.

Okay, and does it have to be two days -- two meals a day, I'm sorry.

No, you could serve one meal.

Okay. Also, you stated that we would have to go through our State agency to find out who is a sponsor if we wanted to join in with a sponsor or that agency would also tell us whether or not we're qualified to be a feeding site. Is that correct?

Yes.

Your State agency will be able to give you guidance on which sponsors are currently participating in the program and help you make the decision as to whether or not it's worth your while to become a sponsor or to become a site under an existing sponsor. And if you're not certain that you can assume all of the responsibilities this coming summer of a sponsor, it may be worth your while to participate as a site. But your State agency can help you better understand what the differences are and what the responsibilities are.

Okay, thank you. And all of this information, again, is on your website; is that correct?

That's correct. All of this information, plus much more than you probably ever wanted to know about all of the regulations and everything, is all on our website.

Okay, thank you. Thank you so much for your time.

You're welcome. Thanks for participating.

We have another question here that came in over the webinar: "What exactly is the difference between an open site and an enrolled site, and how do we know if we are an open site or an enrolled site?"

Well, the program is an area-eligible program that's aimed towards providing meals to children in low-income areas. And so if a sponsor is intending to serve meals to all of the children in an area, it would be considered an open site. An enrolled site serves only a distinct group of children in a particular program; and the eligibility is based on the children's free and reduced-price applications, while an open site eligibility is based on the rate of -- the percentage of free and reduced-price eligible children in the local schools.

So I'll just -- I'll add to that a little tiny bit. An open site is based on an area that is very low income -- so that the census tells us that 50% or more of the children that live in that area and go to that school -- sort of that school district -- are eligible for a free or reduced-priced meal. So it doesn't have to do with the exact children that are coming and eating the meal, it has to do with the area -- and we know that the area is eligible. An enrolled site is basically creating that eligibility by determining that the exact students that it serves help us meet that requirement. So it may not be that 50% of the entire school district is free or reduced priced; but it is that 50% of the students who are coming to eat those meals are free and reduced-price. So I hope that -- both of our explanations give you something there.

The next question here is: "My organization is a food pantry and hot meal site among other things. Currently, we serve one hundred breakfasts and two hundred and fifty lunches each day. Are there other organizations like mine that have adapted their soup kitchen to being a site or sponsor? We serve children most days and especially during the summer. I'm trying to understand if we might be a good fit."

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Definitely, yes. There are certainly soup pantries that have situations like yours that have joined as summer food sites. And I would strongly encourage whoever submitted that question to contact your State agency and see what the best way for you to join up is. I can't reiterate enough that oftentimes the people who join the summer food program -- or the organizations are already serving meals, but just don't know that they're eligible to become part of the program. So definitely look into it.

Next question here: "Can you be a sponsor or just your own site?" I think we've covered that. You can become a sponsor or you can just become a site and answer to an existing sponsor. Both are fine. We encourage anybody to get involved the way that works best for your organization.

Operator, do you want to pull up the next phone question?

The next question is from M. Brown. Go ahead, your line is open.

Hello?

Hello?

Yes.

Yes, I went to the website and clicked on how suppliers should contact the SFS contact in your state. And it says, "click here"; but there's no link to click.

Okay. Well, we'll look into that and get back to you. I'm not sure -- there must be something --

What you can also do is to go to "Contact Us." It's a button on the banner above the Summer Food Service Program name on the Summer Food Service Program website. And if you click on "Contact Us" and look for the information about child nutrition, and there you will find a list of State agencies that administer the Summer Food Service Program as well as the other child nutrition programs.

Thank you.

You're welcome.

Thank you. Okay, another question here over the webinar: "We are a rural school district that has schools that are miles away from each other. Only one school has 50% free and reduced-price eligible students. So the program has to be at that school, and we can serve any student in the district."

That sounds correct to us. We would want you to again sign up through the State agency, and they will work through that. But, yes, that does sound correct. And we understand that that means hooking up with some sort of other organization that can provide transportation. We understand that people do transport both kids and meals as a part of this program. So it sounds like the scenario that you are describing is correct.

The next question here: "Is there a minimum amount of children that need to be served?" No, there's no minimum. Of course when you start operating larger programs, you get into economies of scale and all that. But there is no program requirement that you need to serve a certain amount of meals.

Keep in mind that it is a congregate meal program, which means that the program is intended to serve groups of children who sit down and eat together.

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Next question here: "Did I understand correctly -- meals served to enrolled children who are not eligible for free or reduced meals and who are classified as 'denied/no application' are not reimbursable meals?" That depends on which type of site you're talking about. So if that was your question and we haven't already covered that, if you want to dial in and clarify that would be probably the best way to get your question answered. At an enrolled site, if 50% or more of the students who eat there are deemed eligible, then you don't need to prove that 100% of them are eligible. So in this case, the answer to your question would be, No, that meal would be probably reimbursable. At a summer camp, the answer to your question would be, Yes. So if that doesn't clarify, please do press "*" and ask us again.

Operator, do you have the next question?

The next question is from Fran Leonard. Your line is open.

Yes, I want to know that if I do decide to hook up with a different sponsor, I need to know of vendors on my list. You keep saying the State agency, but what agency are you referring to -- the summer food program itself or -- go ahead, I'm sorry.

Oh, well, the State administering agency is usually the State Department of Education -- the same office that administers the national school lunch and school breakfast programs in your local schools. In some states, it may be the Department of Agriculture or the Department of Human Services or even the Department of Health.

I got you.

These are state-level agencies that receive funding from USDA to administer the programs in their states. And so that's why it's important to contact the appropriate State agency.

And when does the summer program run throughout again? You said a date.

During the long periods of vacation, when schools are closed -- which in the southern states can begin in the middle of May and run all the way through the end of August in our northern states. In some school districts where there are year-round schools, the Summer Food Service Program is also an option for those periods of the year when children are on long vacations.

Thank you.

Thank you.

I just wanted to add here -- we are understanding that our website is not working quite the way it should with that contact list. So I wanted to remind everybody that you can download it. If you are connected to the webinar and you viewed this presentation with us over your computer, if you click on that "Handout" icon -- at the upper right-hand corner of your screen with the three little pieces of paper -- we do have it there for you. And we will make sure that it's available on the website as well if you return and need to look for it there.

Do you have another question, operator?

Yeah, we just got one in. One moment. Let me just verify the name of the caller.

Thank you.

[Pause]

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Okay, the person did not record your name. If you just queued up for a question, your line is open.

I had a kind of a two-part question. Number one, we operate -- we are a non-profit community action organization -- we operate an after-school and summer program that's child care, but of course it's fee based. Does the fact that it's fee based make any difference on a summer feeding program?

What we would suggest is that you contact your State agency and explain the type of program that you operate and discuss it with the State agency to see if your organization would be eligible for the Summer Food Service Program.

In some cases, I think it's a Yes; and in some cases, it's a No. It depends on the details of the way your program works.

Okay. The second part of the question is, Is there an amount of time -- do you have to operate for the entire summer? We operate also a summer camp at a physical camp where the children spend the night and all of that. But that's not open all year/all summer. Does that make a difference?

No, you do not have to be open the entire duration of the summer.

Okay. The meals there could be reimbursable, depending on the open and closed site and all of that?

Right Depending on the eligibility and which type of site, you do not have to operate the entire -- for the duration of the summer. You can operate for any part of it

Okay, I appreciate that. Thank you.

We have a question coming in here over the webinar: "Do you see a time when different sponsors may work together such as, schools who have the resources to prepare the meals with other sponsors who have the resources to deliver them. In our most rural areas, it would be a great benefit. At the current time, we must purchase the meals from the schools at a rate that is prohibitive for us to provide to local boys and girls clubs, parks, etc."

Any type of partnerships that you can make work at the local level, we completely support. We can't reiterate it enough; the solution to making a great summer food program is different in every community. We know that the barriers -- we can make some generalizations about the barriers and the hardships in rural areas versus urban and that sort of thing. But it really depends on the local resources and the organizations that are willing to work together. So, yes, we would love to see that type of relationship.

The next question here: "So we could have a different site each day where food is provided?"

Yes, the site does not have to be the same place every day. You could operate sites all over the community on different days and have meals at a site on the east side on one day, and in the middle on another day, and on the west side on another day. That is perfectly allowed, assuming that you're operating everything else under the regulations.

We have another question here: "If we become a feeding site, do we cook food or does our sponsor cook for us?"

The sponsor is responsible for making sure that the acceptable meal is served at the site. There are all sorts of different arrangements about where the food prep happens and what type of meal -- whether it's an actual prepared or shelf-stable, non-perishable meal. The best answer that we

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can give is that there are as many different combinations of this as you can think of, and you just want to check with your State agency again to make sure that what would work for you is appropriate within the bounds of the program.

Next question here: "If a feeding site is in a park or near a pool, what are the rules about inclement weather?"

Well, in your application to the State agency, you will want -- you will need to include information about an alternate site in the event that there is rain or there is bad weather. And so you can work with your State agency to better understand what kinds of alternatives there may be. But if you have an outdoor site, you'll also want to be sure to identify an alternative site just in case there is inclement weather.

And it's okay if that site isn't in the same place. Like, for instance, your inclement weather plan could be to change the site for the day -- to put people at a community center that you have an agreement with, where you can use the gym for the day or something like that. So you shouldn't let the fact that an outdoor site doesn't have an indoor option on the same grounds deter you from coming up with a plan that way.

And this is a plan that you'll work out well in advance of the Summer Food Service Program meal service.

We have one more question here: "Would the tracking for reimbursement be the same as the CACFP or the School Lunch Program?"

The pro -- they're all separate accounting. They're completely separate programs. So there are some things similar about the way that they are reimbursed because we reimburse for the meals that are served; but in order to get your specific question answered, you would want to talk to your State agency about that.

Keep in mind that a program like the Child and Adult Care Food Program still relies on a cost accounting system, where the Summer Food Service Program no longer requires cost accounting or tracking of reimbursement. But again, your State agency will be best able to work with you and help you better understand what the financial management requirements of the program are.

So somebody is asking us over the webinar tool here that: "We gave the amount for operating costs, do you know how much the admin costs is attached to this grant?"

We don't have that in front of us -- the exact numbers right now. But it is on the website -- the full reimbursement. And I just want to remind everybody that the reimbursement comes as one reimbursement. There isn't a separate reimbursement for operating an admin; but those costs are put together and combined into one reimbursement. So that information is available on the website. I apologize for not having it in front of us right now.

On the website, if you go to the page where we talk about managing the program and you click on "Reimbursement Rates," you'll see that you can access the federal registered notice that was published last month. And it will explain to you more -- not only about the combined rates and how it was derived, but what the components of the operating as well as the administrative rates are.

And we have one last question on the webinar: "Is there compensation for becoming a feeding site?"

There is not in the sense that you get a certain amount of money -- like just as it is written here -- for becoming a feeding site. That doesn't mean that sponsors who might have additional funding

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from an outside source may not -- we can't control whether or not sponsors help sites out to defray their costs. But it's not a part of the program itself in terms of the federally funded part.

The reimbursement goes to the sponsor to reimburse for the cost of providing a food service program.

Operator, do we have any other questions? We have time for one last question if we have one.

We do have one question. It's from Connie. Your line is open.

On the website, the link for the reimbursement and the explanation of it -- it just says that it cannot be found -- the page cannot be displayed.

We'll have to check into that. I apologize if our website is having -- going through a little -- a couple kinks. We are actually late in the process of updating the information on the summer food website. So please do try that again. We'll look into that specific problem. But that information will be there for you in the near future if you're having trouble with it right now.

Okay.

You can also try to access information about the Summer Food Service Program by going to USDA's Food and Nutrition Services home page. So if the summerfood.usda.gov URL is not working for you, you may be able to obtain this information by going to the Food and Nutrition Service. And you can simply Google "Food and Nutrition Service" to easily get there.

Again, we apologize for the website having a few kinks today. But we are working really hard to get updated and the most recent information there for you all to use.

And our website is -- it's s&s.usda.gov -- and that will give you information not only about the Summer Food Service Program, but about the other child nutrition programs, about snacks, about WIC -- and a whole family of programs that help people who are looking for nutrition assistance.

Okay, operator, thank you for your assistance today.

Everyone on the line, thanks for participating. We've come to the end of our time today. We've -- think about what we've talked about today and decide whether or not you or your organization is poised to become a part of this great program. And, again, we can't stress it enough. The way to get started is really to contact that State agency that operates the program within your state and start the line of communication there. Thank you again, everybody, for participating; and have a great day.