

**Summer Food Service Program**



# Program Bulletin

***Child Nutrition Programs***

***Finance & Support Services***

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**To:** SFSP Sponsors

Program Reviewers

**From:** Debbie Soto

(Acting) Program Specialist

**Date:** July 9, 2019

**Bulletin:** 2019-8

**Subject:** USDA Policy Memos and Information

**USDA Policy Memos, Information, and Guidance:**

* SP 13-2019s – Demonstration Project for Non-Congregate Feeding for Outdoor Summer Meal Sites Experiencing Excessive Heat with Questions & Answers

**Additional Topics:**

* The USDA Summer Food Site Finder Website
* Alaska Farm to Summer Week
* Planning for Inclement Weather Conditions
* Upcoming Webinars
* The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Characteristics Study

**Program changes as a result of USDA Policy Memos are to be implemented immediately. Please file this bulletin for reference, guidance, and compliance with the Summer Food Service Program. Feel free to call the Child Nutrition Programs office if you need further clarification.**

## USDA Policy Memos, Information, and Guidance:

All guidance referenced below may be found [on the USDA Policy Memorandum Webpage](https://www.fns.usda.gov/resources?f%5B0%5D=program%3A28&f%5B1%5D=resource_type%3A160).

### SP28 SPFP13-2019s (posting pending USDA) - See Attached Memo

**Demonstration Project for Non-Congregate Feeding for Outdoor Summer Meal Sites Experiencing Excessive Heat with Questions & Answers**

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is continuing the 2018 demonstration project allowing non-congregate feeding at certain outdoor summer meal sites experiencing excessive heat for summer 2019. Excessive heat may not be a significant concern for sites in Alaska but this demonstration project also allows for outdoor sites experiencing “exceptional circumstances” related to extreme weather events to provide non-congregate feeding when such circumstance exists. Excessive smoke from wildfires that hinders SFSP operations by reducing visibility and air quality is an example of such an exceptional circumstance. Please keep this in mind and contact our office if you believe this may be an issue at your SFSP site this summer as our office is required to requests advance approval by the FNS National Office prior to implementation.

## Additional Topics

### The USDA Summer Food Site Finder

This web-based mapping tool allows Alaskans to enter a street address and locate nearby Open SFSP meal sites. It list all meals times, days, contact information for each site and is kept up to date weekly by our office. This is an incredibly useful tool and its accuracy depends on the information you enter in the CNP Web, so please remember to keep it up to date! Thank you and please considering forwarding this tool to anyone you think may find it useful: [USDA Summer Food Site Finder](https://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks).

### Alaska Farm to Summer Week

As discussed during our 2019 annual sponsor trainings, **July 22-25** has been designated as Alaska Farm to Summer Week. All sponsors are encouraged to serve local foods and incorporate agricultural enrichment activities into summer feeding programs to celebrate. This is a wonderful opportunity to promote local foods, serve high quality meals, and promote your summer feeding program! **The Alaska Farm to Summer Toolkit is available; contact DEED if you would like to receive an electronic copy by email**.

Share how your agency is celebrating by posting on your favorite social media platforms, using the hashtag #akfarmtosummerweek and let us know if and how your programs plan to participate.

### Planning for Inclement Weather Conditions

All sponsors of outdoor sites are required to have a contingency plan in place, in case of inclement weather. The sponsors’ plan could include:

* Partnering with a local community organization or civic center to use an indoor space as an alternative site
* Arranging tents for hot or rainy days as shelter in outdoor sites
* Notifying summer meal participants of any alternative site arrangements

### Upcoming Webinars

#### Engage Community Leaders to Strengthen Your Summer Meals Program

Thursday, June 13, 2019 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM AKDT

Community leaders, including elected officials, can use their position within the community to help end summer hunger by connecting with constituents, raising awareness in the media, championing smart policies and using their leadership to ensure programs work effectively. Join us to hear some great examples of effective engagement, uncover information on strategies you can adopt to support your own summer meals program, and access resources to simplify this work and accelerate impact. You may register for this webinar here: [Webinar Registration](http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/webinars/engage-community-leaders-strengthen-your-summer-meals-program).

### The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Characteristics Infographic

This study collected data on Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) operations and characteristics at the state, sponsor, and site levels. Survey data was collected in the summer of 2015 from a census of the 53 state agencies (all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico) and nationally representative samples of SFSP sponsors and sites. In lieu of a technical research report, study findings are included in a four-page infographic. [Summer Infographic](https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program-characteristics-study).

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