



CALL TO ACTION ON HUNGER

Ocean County

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA),
With Support from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA),
Seeks Sponsors for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

🌀 Food That's "In" When School Is "Out" 🌀

The NJDA is seeking committed organizations (sponsors) interested in providing meals to needy children under the federally funded Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). The SFSP reimburses sponsors for meals that meet federal nutrition guidelines served in areas with a significant concentration of low-income children that qualify for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

Approximately 430,512 children in New Jersey qualify for free and reduced-price meals. In 2015, only **19%** of eligible children participated in the SFSP. Clearly, the needs of children in New Jersey who depend on free and reduced-price meals during the school year are not being met during the summer. The SFSP provides good nutritious food that's "in" when school is "out." The program offers eligible children access to healthy meals from sponsors dedicated to improve a child's physical and social development. As a public official you may know that good nutrition is essential for learning; children who miss breakfast or lunch are more likely to be absent, tardy, sick, disruptive, inattentive, and score lower on achievement tests.

The SFSP conducted a statewide Needs Assessment Report based on school data. The results yield alarming statistics and paint a grave picture of the nutrition needs of New Jersey's children. This issue should concern all New Jersey public officials, as well as their constituents. Collectively, we must take action to increase participation and awareness of this essential program; we have a responsibility to ensure New Jersey's children receive nutritious meals during the summer.

Based on the SFSP Needs Assessment Report, the information listed below provides a summary of our findings for Ocean County.

City	Children Eligible to Receive SFSP Meals	Children Enrolled in CNPs* and Receive Meals	% of Children Eligible to Receive SFSP Meals BUT DO NOT
Barneget Twp.	189	0	100%
Brick Twp.	212	0	100%
Lakehurst Boro.*	384	0	100%
Lakewood Twp.*	5,807	699*	88%
Little Egg Harbor Twp.	777	186	76%
Ocean Gate*	159	0	100%
Seaside Heights Boro.	220	55	75%
Toms River	610	0	100%
Ocean County Total	8,358	940	89%

* CNPs (Child Nutrition Programs): SFSP, NSLP Academic Summer and Seamless Summer Option
* Area Eligible City – Total Children Enrolled listed

The SFSP is one of the USDA's most needed but underutilized federal food assistance program. Please get involved and partner with us to ensure eligible children in all New Jersey communities receive the healthy meals they deserve during the summer months.

For more information about New Jersey's SFSP, contact our office (609) 292-4498 and ask to speak with the Program Specialist for Ocean County. You may also mail or fax a written request to: New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Food and Nutrition, Summer Food Service Program, P.O. Box 334, Trenton, NJ 08625, Attn: Stephanie Sutton-Page, Acting Coordinator, Summer Food Service Program.

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Who Can Sponsor a SFSP?

- ☀ Public or private non-profit school food authority;
- ☀ Public or private non-profit residential or day camps;
- ☀ Public or private non-profit college or university participating in the National Youth Sports Program (NYPS);
- ☀ Units of local, county, municipal, state, or federal government; or
- ☀ Any other type of private non-profit organization.

Sponsors must be organizations with sound operational procedures capable of managing a summer food service program, both administratively and financially. Sponsors must also follow federal and state rules and regulations to ensure program compliance.

Everyone Wins With Summer Food!

Children	have nutritious meals they may not otherwise receive.
Parents	stretch their food dollars with the assurance their children have healthy meals and recreation.
Food Service Workers	have summer employment.
Organizations	receive federal money to sponsor a SFSP that provides healthy meals to children and compliments a new or established summer program, such as day camps, sports programs, and other enrichment or recreational activities.

Additional information can be found by visiting the USDA website at:

www.summerfood.usda.gov

