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Summer Food Service Program seeking sponsors and sites

The South Dakota Department of Education's office of Child and Adult Nutrition Services is seeking sponsors and sites for the Summer Food Service Program. Community organizations, nonprofits, schools and local governments can apply to be sponsors if they operate in low-income areas, serve a group of mostly low-income children or operate a summer camp with a high proportion of low-income participants. Parks and recreation departments, city and county health departments, libraries and neighborhood service agencies participate as sites or sponsors.

When school is in session, 58,096 South Dakota students receive free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program. The Summer Food Service Program provides food service to students when school is not in session. Children age 18 and younger may receive a meal free of charge at a participating site. In 2013, South Dakota Summer Food Service sponsors served 418,012 meals.

"Summertime should be fun, but when kids are out of class, they lose access to school meals. For many families struggling to make ends meet, that can mean stretching already tight food budgets even further," said Sandra Kangas, director of South Dakota's Child and Adult Nutrition Services. "The Summer Food Service Program can really help fill that need."

Organizations interested in reviewing sponsor responsibilities can watch the [Summer Food Service Program Overview](#). To learn more about serving as a sponsor or site, call Child and Adult Nutrition Services at (605) 773-3413. For more information and to register for training, go to <http://doe.sd.gov/cans/sfsp.aspx>. The deadline to register for training is March 3.

In addition, sponsors are always looking for partners to help provide activities and educational programs to encourage continued student participation throughout the summer. For organizations interested in potentially collaborating with a sponsor in this way, a list of last year's Summer Food Service Program sites is available [online](#).

The Summer Food Service Program is federally funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is administered by the South Dakota Department of Education. This agency is an equal opportunity provider.