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Make a difference in your community: Sponsor a Summer Food Service Program

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Department of Education's division of Child and Adult Nutrition Services is seeking sponsors for a federally funded program that provides nutritious meals and snacks to children in low-income areas during the summer months.

Many South Dakota children receive free and reduced-price meals through the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs, but these programs are not available during the summer months when school is not in session. The Summer Food Service Program fills this gap by providing free, nutritious summer meals to children at approved sites in areas with high concentrations of low-income children.

Community organizations, nonprofits, schools, and tribal 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 can also participate as sites or sponsors.

Sponsorships are available statewide, with especially high need for new sponsors in the following counties: Aurora, Bennett, Bon Homme, Buffalo, Butte, Campbell, Custer, Gregory, McCook, Hughes, Lake, Stanley, and Walworth.

Organizations interested in reviewing sponsor responsibilities and serving meals during summer 2025 are invited to use the Summer Food Service Program pre-screen tool at <https://forms.office.com/g/rUW11qVZV5>. Please complete this questionnaire by Feb. 1, 2025. Once eligibility is determined, department staff will contact potential sponsors with more information.

To learn more about serving as a sponsor or site, call Child and Adult Nutrition Services at 605-773-3413. For more information, please visit: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/faqs>.

The Summer Food Service Program is available at no charge for children ages 0-18 and to persons with disabilities over age 18, who participate in school programs for people who are mentally or physically disabled.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>), (AD-3027) found online at: How to File a Complaint (<https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint>) and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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