

Section 1000

Introduction

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Introduction

1100 Program Description

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) ensures that children have access to nutritious meals during times when schools are generally closed. The SFSP was established under the National School Lunch Act of 1946, as amended, and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended. The program provides nutritious meals to children, aged 18 years or younger, in low-income areas during long school vacations when they do not have access to school lunch or breakfast. Individuals aged 19 years or older may also be eligible for SFSP benefits if they:

- are determined to be mentally or physically disabled by a state or local educational agency, and
- participate in a public or private nonprofit school program for the disabled during the school year.

The SFSP recognizes the importance of proper nutrition for children. Although the program operates primarily during the summer months when many schools are closed, it also provides meals during other times of the year, under specific circumstances. Refer to Item 2123, Year-Round Summer Food Service Program.

1200 Administration

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has an agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to administer the SFSP in Texas, and does so in accordance with federal and state requirements. You can reference these requirements in the:

- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 7 CFR Part 225 and
- Texas Administrative Code (TAC) at Title 1, Part 15, Chapter 378.

We, HHSC Special Nutrition Programs (SNP), administer the SFSP through eight area program offices (APOs) statewide. The APOs process, manage and monitor program applications and agreements. An APO was assigned to you based on the geographic area in which your primary business office is located.

HHSC's responsibilities include:

- administering the SFSP in Texas,
- disbursing program funds,
- assisting sponsors in the operation and management of the program, and

- monitoring the program to ensure that reimbursement is used for program purposes.

Sponsors' responsibilities include:

- complying with the terms of the program agreement,
- implementing and operating a financial management system,
- maintaining program records, and
- submitting claims for reimbursement.

1300 Other Programs

We administer the Summer Food Service Program at schools, residential summer camps, colleges, universities and other locations. Additionally, we also administer the following U.S. Department of Agriculture programs:

- National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program;
- Special Milk Program;
- Child and Adult Care Food Program;
- Food Distribution Program;
- Texas Commodity Assistance Program; and
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (in limited areas only).

Contact your area program office to receive more information about these programs.

If you are approved to participate in more than one program at the same time, you must ensure that you:

- do not claim the same meal(s) for a participant in both programs;
- do not serve the same meal(s) to a participant in both programs;
- maintain separate records for each program; and
- attribute costs to the appropriate program.

1400 Funding

We use U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) monies to fund certain costs associated with food services provided to children. USDA monies may be used to:

- provide advance payment to you for the following month's services,
- reimburse part of the cost of serving meals and supplements to eligible children, and
- reimburse approved administrative costs.

1500 Appeals

You have the right to appeal any action we take that affects your participation in the Summer Food Service Program, including the denial of your application. Refer to Section 8000, Denials, Terminations and Appeals, for additional information regarding your appeal rights.