

CLARIFICATION OF FEDERAL POLICY

In Texas, organizations that contract directly with Texas Department of Agriculture's USDA federally funded nutrition programs are called Contracting Entities or CEs. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) are both identified as nutrition program and, as such, are considered CEs.

Site Eligibility Based on Census Data

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sites are eligible to serve all meals free (open site) to participating children if they are located in areas in which poor economic conditions exist. Similarly, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) day care homes located in low-income areas are eligible to receive reimbursement at the higher tier I rate for all meals/snacks served to enrolled children. Regulation allows the use of census data to establish this eligibility.

Contracting entities (CEs) that establish eligibility using census data for SFSP sites are required to use the most recent data available. The Census Bureau will now estimate household income annually using the American Community Survey (ACS) and therefore, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will release new census data every year. However, in order to reduce the burden and maintain consistency with the SFSP and CACFP, area eligibility determinations based on census data are effective for five years.

In order for a SFSP open site to be eligible, 50 percent or more of the children in a Census Block Group (CBG) must be eligible for free or reduced price school meals. In the past, CACFP and SFSP used different age ranges of children to define area eligibility with census data. However, since CACFP no longer establishes area eligibility based on elementary school data, CACFP day care homes and SFSP sites will be considered area eligible if they are located in a CBG that qualifies under **either** CACFP or SFSP. For example, if a CBG showed SFSP as 48.90 percent and CACFP as 51.25 percent, the SFSP site would be eligible, even though the SFSP percent of 48.90 is below 50 percent.

Using the Data

Data retrieved from the Census Bureau's website may not be used to determine SFSP site eligibility. Use the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) SFSP mapping website, endorsed by USDA, to determine SFSP site eligibility.

Steps in Accessing the Data

1. Logon to the FRAC website; <http://frac.org/>
2. Under Federal Food/Nutrition Programs tab, click on Summer Nutrition Programs and open the FRAC SFSP mapping website; currently there is a link in the middle of the page. If you have trouble finding the FRAC SFSP mapping website you can also use the search engine.
3. When site opens, toward the middle of the page, you will see



[Summer Food Mapper](#) (national scale map-- zoomable to street-level)

4. Click on the link.
5. When the site opens, in the top left corner, click FIND (next to the flashlight).

6. When the window opens, enter the Street Address, City, State and ZIP Code and click FIND.
7. This will bring up a color coded map showing if the SFSP site is eligible (Yes or No).
 - If the blue star is located in the green area the SFSP site is **eligible**.
 - If the blue star is in the pink area the SFSP site is **not eligible**.
 - You will also see a chart at the bottom of the page. If the third column (Eligible? Yes or No) shows "Yes," the SFSP site is eligible. **NOTE:** The SFSP site is eligible, even if the percentage under the SFSP is less than 50 percent.
8. Print the page and keep it with your documentation for that SFSP site. You may be asked to produce this documentation during a review.

Please note the FRAC website also maintains a Child and Adult Care Food Program Mapper. Data pulled from the Summer Food Target Mapper is identical to data pulled from the Child and Adult Care Food Program Mapper, and therefore CEs may use either tool to determine SFSP site eligibility.

The information in this policy is also posted on www.squaremeals.org under F&N Resources, Tools & Links, Census Data.

If you have any questions, please contact your Food and Nutrition Community Operations office.

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