



Non-Congregate Feeding Pilot Update

Summer 2023

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April 25, 2023



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

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Food and Nutrition Division
Summer Meal Programs

Updated 4/25/2023
www.SquareMeals.org

Non-Congregate Pilot Program Eligibility

- Only available in rural counties and rural census tracts in urban counties
- Only school districts participating in NSLP and experienced Private Non-Profits in good standing can participate
- Primarily only new sites will be allowed to participate
 - USDA does not intend for NC to replace congregate service.
 - Only school districts that reported a loss last summer AND in a rural county will be able to switch from congregate feeding to NC.
- All NC sites must be at least 2 miles away from an existing congregate site.

<https://squaremeals.org/Programs/Summer-Meal-Programs/Summer-2023-Non-Congregate-Feeding-Pilot-Program>

Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Feeding Pilot Program

| |
|-------------------------------|
| Administration/Forms |
| Area Eligibility |
| CFDA/FAIN Numbers |
| Compliance |
| Disaster Resources |
| Food Safety |
| Funding Opportunities |
| Income Eligibility Guidelines |
| Latest News |

Eligibility and Implementation

TDA is using the discretion provided to States in the Appropriations Act and subsequent guidance from USDA to create a Non-Congregate Feeding Pilot Program for Summer 2023 in rural areas where no congregate service currently exists. Use the resources at right to determine eligibility and get answers to questions about the pilot program.

RESOURCES

- [Application Steps at a Glance Informational One Pager](#)
- [Non-Congregate Feeding Pilot FAQs](#)
- [Non-Congregate Eligibility Map](#)
- [List of Rural-Designated Counties](#)
- [List of School Districts Eligible to Switch to Non-Congregate Service](#)
- [Request to Serve Non-Congregate Meals](#)

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STEP ONE - Use mapping tool to determine site eligibility for NC. Check to verify rural area and proximity to congregate sites.

PY23 Rural Non-Congregate Site Eligibility Review Tool

The purpose of this tool is to assist with requesting non-congregate service for SSO and SFSP sites. This is NOT a summer meal site finder.

Use this map to:

- Determine if the location of a new site is in a rural area.
- Determine if a proposed non-congregate site is located within 2 miles of an existing congregate site.

How to read this map:

- Zoom in to see the locations of approved PY23 sites (Yellow dot) and approved PY22 sites (Pink dot).
- Each site has a circle around it indicating a 2 mile radius from the site address.
- Blue areas are rural, while grey areas are urban.

Legend:

- PY23 Sites: Yellow dot
- PY23 Sites - 2-mile Proximity: Yellow circle
- PY22 Sites: Pink dot
- PY22 Sites - 2-mile Proximity: Pink circle
- Urban/Rural: Blue (Rural), Grey (Urban)

Windows taskbar: Type here to search, 67°F, 6/23/23

Published list of rural counties. Does not include urban counties with rural pockets.

Rural Counties Eligible for Non-Congregate Service

The 2022 Appropriations Act authorizes TDA to implement non-congregate feeding in rural areas. The following counties are designated as rural by the Office of Management and Budget. Sites located in these counties **may** be eligible to participate in the Pilot Program if they meet eligibility and proximity requirements as described in the Non-Congregate Feeding Pilot Program FAQs on SquareMeals.org.

NOTE: This list does not include any counties designated as urban; operators wishing to operate a non-congregate service in an urban-designated county should verify that the site is located in a rural census tract within that county. Please use the Non-Congregate Site Eligibility Map to determine the site's eligibility based on location.

Rural-Designated Counties

| | | | | |
|---------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Anderson | Deaf Smith | Hockley | Maverick | Scurry |
| Andrews | Delta | Hopkins | McCulloch | Shackelford |
| Angelina | Dewitt | Houston | McMullen | Shelby |
| Aransas | Dickens | Howard | Menard | Sherman |
| Bailey | Dimmit | Hutchinson | Milam | Somervell |
| Baylor | Donley | Jack | Mills | Starr |
| Bee | Duval | Jackson | Mitchell | Stephens |
| Blanco | Eastland | Jasper | Montague | Stonewall |
| Borden | Edwards | Jeff Davis | Moore | Sutton |
| Bosque | Erath | Jim Hogg | Morris | Swisher |
| Brewster | Fannin | Jim Wells | Motley | Terrell |
| Briscoe | Fayette | Karnes | Nacogdoches | Terry |
| Brooks | Fisher | Kenedy | Navarro | Throckmorton |
| Brown | Floyd | Kent | Newton | Titus |
| Burnet | Foard | Kerr | Nolan | Trinity |
| Calhoun | Franklin | Kimble | Ochiltree | Tyler |
| Camp | Freestone | King | Palo Pinto | Upton |
| Cass | Frio | Kinney | Panola | Uvalde |
| Castro | Gaines | Kleberg | Parmer | Val Verde |
| Cherokee | Garza | Knox | Pecos | Van Zandt |
| Childress | Gillespie | Lamar | Polk | Walker |
| Cochran | Glasscock | Lamb | Presidio | Ward |
| Coke | Gonzales | Lasalle | Rains | Washington |
| Coleman | Gray | Lavaca | Reagan | Wharton |
| Collingsworth | Grimes | Lee | Real | Wheeler |
| Colorado | Hale | Leon | Red River | Wilbarger |



What is a “rural pocket”?

- Defined by USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) - a census tract is urban if the geographic centroid of the tract is in an area with more than 2,500 people; all other tracts are rural.
- Data pulled from ERS’ Food Access Research Atlas.

IMPORTANT:

- CEs on this list **MUST** submit a Non-Congregate Site Request Form for each site.
- Inclusion on this list does not indicate automatic approval.
- Sites must meet proximity requirements.

Contracting Entities Potentially Eligible to Switch Existing Sites to Non-Congregate Service

The CEs listed in this report reported a loss in Summer 2022 and operated in rural counties, making them **potentially** eligible to switch existing congregate sites to non-congregate sites in Summer 2023. Note that to be approved, sites cannot be located within a 2-mile radius of an existing congregate site. Interested Contracting Entities **must have an approved site application followed by submittal and approval of a Site Request to Serve Non-Congregate Meals**. Once approved, TDA will add an "NC" designation to the site name in TX-UNPS. Refer to SquareMeals for more information.

| CE Name |
|------------------|
| ABERNATHY ISD |
| ALPINE ISD |
| BALLINGER ISD |
| BALMORHEA ISD |
| BENAVIDES ISD |
| BIG SPRING ISD |
| BOLING ISD |
| BOOKER ISD |
| BORGER ISD |
| BOVINA ISD |
| BRADY ISD |
| BRECKENRIDGE ISD |
| BROWNFIELD ISD |
| BROWNSBORO ISD |
| BROWNWOOD ISD |



Site Request to Serve Non-Congregate Meals

IMPORTANT:

- **DO NOT SUBMIT UNTIL SITE APPLICATION IS APPROVED.**
- One form per site.
- Must indicate methods, days, and times of distribution.
- TDA validates proximity.

11. What obstacles prevent congregate service in your area (check all that apply): *

Transportation to and from site for participants X

12. Enter the method of non-congregate feeding. *

(Note: Only one non-congregate method is allowed per site. For example, if operating a home delivery method and a grab-and-go site, these must be two separate sites with two separate site applications):

Grab-and-go at central site

13. Select the option that best describes the meal service at your site. NOTE: Number of days cannot exceed the number of days approved to serve in the site application: *

Single distribution of five days' meals at one time.

14. Please list the day or days of meal distribution. Note that meals must be distributed during the times listed on your site application, and meals may only be claimed for the days listed in the site application. *

Monday X



Remember!

**THIS IS A
PILOT**

- Actual regulation not available until after Summer 2023 – Program thus likely to change in 2024
- Goal is to establish infrastructure and lessons learned for subsequent years
- Data collected will inform USDA in their rulemaking

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1. mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

2. fax:

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. email:

program.intake@usda.gov

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