

Summer Food Service Program

USDA FOODS Participation

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Contracting Entities (CE) may receive USDA Foods if meals are prepared on-site or by a School Food Authority (SFA). CEs cannot receive USDA Foods if meals are purchased from a Food Service Management Company (FSMC), unless the CE is a SFA that contracts with a FSMC participating in SFSP. SFA's participating in the National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program can apply to participate in the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and use USDA Foods received during the school year for SSO.

Purpose of USDA Foods

Food Distribution Programs' mission is to strengthen the Nation's nutrition safety net by providing food and nutrition assistance to school children and families; and support American agriculture by distributing high quality, 100% American-grown USDA Foods.

Things to know:

- ◆ CEs must have the storage capabilities for commercial sized packages of dry, refrigerated and frozen USDA food items.
- ◆ CEs are responsible for making necessary arrangements with the state-contracted warehouse to pick up or have delivered USDA Foods. Both the pick up and delivery options charge a fee that CEs must be prepared to pay. CEs may make arrangements with the warehouse or another entity for delivery.

Participation

When completing your application to participate in SFSP, you must indicate that you wish to receive USDA Food by the application deadline. When your application for SFSP is being reviewed eligibility staff checks responses and conducts assessments to verify that "YES" Contracting Entity does want to participate in USDA Foods (commodities). Contracting Entity must also indicate where will the meals will be prepared.

Will meals be prepared onsite or at a central kitchen?

What's next?

- ⇒ Submit an FND-101 requesting access to Food Distribution Program to be able to order USDA Foods.
- ⇒ Contracting Entity will receive an email informing that application packet has been created in TX-UNPS. The email will include step-by-step instructions for completing application packet and requesting USDA Foods on the Delivery Order Form.
- ⇒ If you choose to no longer utilize USDA Foods you MUST notify by responding to the email you receive.

Questions? Call us at 1-877-TEX-MEAL (839-6325)