



# NEWS

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**For immediate release**

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## **Sponsors Needed for Summer Food Service Program**

TOPEKA - During the school year many Kansas children receive low-cost or free nutritious school meals through the Child Nutrition Programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Summer opportunities for children rarely have the resources to provide nutritious meals to children. USDA's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) can help fill the hunger gap from school to summer education and recreational activities. These nutritional opportunities help keep children ready to learn when school resumes.

Schools, public agencies, and private nonprofit organizations may apply to become a sponsor and receive reimbursement for food service to enhance their education or recreation program. SFSP sponsors receive payments for serving healthy meals to children between ages 1 and 18 years at approved sites in needy areas.

The Kansas State Department of Education administers the SFSP in Kansas. SFSP was created to ensure that during long school vacations, children would continue to receive the nutritious meals they receive during the school year. Approximately 330,000 lunches are served to children each day in Kansas during the school year. Only 18,000 children statewide receive the free meals each day provided by SFSP sponsors during the summer months so more sponsors are needed.

SFSP meals can complement supervised activities that are safe, fun, and filled with learning opportunities. Children benefit nutritionally by receiving complete, wholesome meals and parents benefit from help in stretching their food dollars. Children who continue to receive healthy meals through the summer feel better, behave better and go back to school ready to learn. The SFSP encourages communities to provide secure places for children to go to be with other children and caring adults. As a result, parents will know their children are receiving healthy meals in a supportive environment.

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Can SFSP assist in your community? Organizations interested in serving nutritious meals to children through a summer program should contact Peggy McAdoo at Child Nutrition and Wellness, KSDE, (785) 296-2276, or visit our website [www.kn-eat.org](http://www.kn-eat.org) and select the Summer Food Service Program icon to learn more about the SFSP.

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