



ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

## Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

SHARON DEVINE  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

### Informational Letter

#### Section 1

<b>Transmittal:</b>	15-INF-06
<b>To:</b>	Local District Commissioners
<b>Issuing Division/Office:</b>	Center for Employment and Economic Supports
<b>Date:</b>	June 12, 2015
<b>Subject:</b>	Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
<b>Suggested Distribution:</b>	SNAP Benefits Staff, Temporary Assistance Staff, Services Staff
<b>Contact Person(s):</b>	SNAP Bureau - @ 1-800-343-8859, ext. 3-1469
<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">Attachment 1 2015 SED SFSP Resource Order Form</a> <a href="#">Attachment 2 2015 SED SFSP Poster in English</a> <a href="#">Attachment 3 2015 SED SFSP Poster in Spanish</a> <a href="#">Attachment 4 2015 USDA SFSP Doorhanger in English</a> <a href="#">Attachment 5 2015 USDA SFSP Meet Up in English</a> <a href="#">Attachment 6 2015 USDA SFSP Fact Sheet</a> <a href="#">Attachment 7 2015 USDA SFSP Flyer in English</a> <a href="#">Attachment 8 2015 USDA SFSP Customizable Flyer in English</a>
<b>Attachment Available Online:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
12-INF-09 13-INF-04 14-INF-08			7 CFR 225 7 CFR 225.2		

## Section 2

### I. Purpose

The purpose of this release is to provide updated information to social services districts (SSDs) about the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), a program administered by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) that offers the opportunity for low-income children 18 years of age and younger, as well as disabled young adults over age 18 enrolled in school programs for persons with disabilities, to receive free, nutritious meals during the summer months when schools are not in session.

### II. Background

Today, while nearly 1.4 million children in New York State receive free or reduced-price school meals for nine months out of the year, only approximately 400,000 children participate in SFSP. The SFSP was created to reduce the likelihood of nutritional risk for low income children during the months when schools are closed for summer recess by providing free meals at participating summer meal sites such as schools, parks, pools, recreation centers, camps, housing authorities and other neighborhood locations. Through SFSP, schools, governments and nonprofit organizations receive Federal and State funds to continue a child's physical and social development by providing meals during the summer with the number of meals and dates varying by site.

Because summer meal sites are selected based on community demographics and pervasiveness of need, any child 18 years of age or younger who comes to an approved open site may receive meals without the need for an eligibility determination to be conducted. At camps, children eligible for free and reduced-price meals may receive SFSP meals. Young adults over age 18 who are enrolled in school programs for persons with disabilities may also participate.

### III. Program Implications

The advertising campaign for this summer's program will begin on June 22, 2015. The SFSP officially ends September 7, 2015; however, most sites close by the end of August.

**Local Social Service districts are asked to help increase SFSP awareness by:**

- Including information about the SFSP on your county website by citing the *New York State Growing Up Healthy Hotline* at 1-800-522-5006 and [www.Summermealsny.org](http://www.Summermealsny.org).
- Posting SFSP information in your lobby using the attached SFSP posters and/or including SFSP information in program application packets June, July, and August. Additional SFSP materials may be requested by using the attached **2015 SED SFSP Resource Order form**. Outreach information, including brochures, door hangers and flyers, are attached (for Spanish versions of the attachments, please go to the website below). Public Service announcements, as well as, other promotional materials may be found at:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program-sfsp>

- Collaborating with various community based partners, such as your local Nutrition Outreach Provider and area food assistance organizations, to coordinate efforts to increase participation in the SFSP.

OTDA has taken the following steps to increase SFSP program awareness:

- All Client Notice Systems (CNS) notices for TANF funded TA households with children and SNAP openings, recertifications, and re-opening transactions include information about the Summer Food Service Program:

*Summer should be a stress-free time full of food, friends and fun. Free summer meals can help. During the summer months, children 18 and under can receive free, nutritious meals at Summer Food Service Program meal sites. Many sites also offer fun activities, so kids and teens can stay active and spend time with friends while enjoying healthy meals. Meals and snacks are also available to persons with disabilities, over age 18, who participate in school programs for people who are mentally or physically disabled. To locate a site in your community or for further information, please contact the New York State Growing Up Healthy Hotline toll-free at 1-800-522-5006 or [www.Summermealsny.org](http://www.Summermealsny.org).*

- myBenefits.ny.gov includes SFSP information under “Assistance Programs,” (click on “Summer Meal Program”).
- The myBenefits prescreening tool provides a link to users with children for free summer meals. The link brings the user to the *Hunger Solutions of New York* “**Find Free Summer Meals**” webpage.
- The OTDA Internet site includes SFSP information on the “Nutrition Program” webpage: <http://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/nutrition.asp>.
- The following message will run from June 22nd until August 31st on the CEES hotline and the New York EBT Cardholder Website ([www.ebt.acs-inc.com/nyebtclient](http://www.ebt.acs-inc.com/nyebtclient)). EBT cardholders must be registered to the website with a valid User ID and Password to view the message:

*During the summer months, children 18 years old or younger are eligible to receive free, nutritious meals at participating Summer Food Service meal sites. For further details about the program in your community, please contact the State toll-free helpline at 1-800-522-5006 or go to [www.Summermealsny.org](http://www.Summermealsny.org).*

Thank you for your support in improving access to healthy, nutritious meals for low-income children during the summer months.

**Issued By**

**Name: Phyllis Morris**

**Title: Deputy Commissioner**

**Division/Office: Center for Employment and Economic Supports**