



## Summer Meals Updates

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### USDA Extends Area Eligibility Waiver through August 31, 2020

USDA issued a [nationwide waiver for area eligibility](#) requirements through August 31, 2020, allowing summer meal sponsors to be approved to operate open sites in all areas, not just those where 50% or more of the children qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. This waiver applies to the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option. Program sponsors should contact their Child Nutrition representative at New York State Education Department (NYSED) with questions or for further guidance.

USDA also extended nationwide waivers for:

- [On-site monitoring requirements](#), through August 31, 2020.
- [Meal pattern flexibility](#) in areas with food supply chain disruptions, through July 31, 2020.

These waivers, previously scheduled to expire June 30, 2020, help ensure children and teenagers have continued access to meal programs this summer.

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### SFSP Sponsor Application Deadline Extended to June 30, 2020

NYSED has extended application and renewal deadlines for new and returning SFSP sponsors to June 30, 2020. Applications were previously due June 15, 2020. School districts or community organizations interested in becoming summer meals sponsors should contact NYSED as soon as possible for training and application materials. Email [cnsfsp@nysed.gov](mailto:cnsfsp@nysed.gov) or complete this [online form](#) to get started.

**Interested in serving as a summer meal *site* under a local sponsor?** Sites are the locations where children receive meals, often places like parks, libraries, housing communities, and other community centers. Sites operate under a local sponsoring organization. Use our [Summer Meals Sponsor Directory](#) to connect with sponsors in your area; contact your local school district, too, as they may plan to sponsor summer meals this year even if they haven't in the past. Note that sites may operate differently than usual this year; for example, some are offering "grab and go" meals. Local sponsors can share how they plan to operate and how new partners can get involved.

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## **We want to hear from you!**

As we continue to advocate for additional resources and flexibilities, we want to reflect the needs of sponsors and sites across the state. [Click here](#) for a **~3 minute survey** to let us know if and how you plan to operate, what challenges you are encountering, and what additional resources you need to ensure successful meal programs this summer.

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## **Visit our COVID-19 Webpage**

Our [COVID-19 webpage](#) includes the latest updates on all of the federal nutrition programs. We will continue to send email updates, post to our website, and use Facebook and Twitter to share information. Thank you for your continued efforts to help New Yorkers with needed access to food during this time.

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