

Partner with the

# USDA SUMMER MEALS PROGRAM

**When school is out of session, community summer meal programs take the place of school meals. The USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) offers reimbursement to approved sponsors for serving meals that meet Federal nutrition guidelines to children. Here are three different ways you can partner with SFSP to help ensure that no child goes hungry this summer.**

## 1. Partner with an existing Summer Meal Site

Call 2-1-1 or go to [www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks](http://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks) to identify the Summer Meal Site closest to your program. If there is an existing site nearby, give them a call! Determine whether the site serves meals during your program time and how you can coordinate to ensure kids in your program can receive these meals. If the site serves meals before or after your program time, offer to help spread the word to parents and caregivers of kids in your program. You may even decide to walk kids over to the meal site!

## 2. Become a Summer Meal Site

If there is no existing Summer Meal Site near your program, or if you prefer that your kids remain onsite to receive their meal, consider becoming a Summer Meal Site! A site is the physical location, approved by the Maine DOE, where SFSP meals are served during a supervised time period. You are eligible to become a Summer Meal Site if you run a program in a low-income area or if at least half of the children enrolled in your program are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Call Maine Department of Education, Child Nutrition Services at (207) 624-6842 to identify a Summer Meal Sponsor near your program. Contact your local sponsor to let them know you are interested in becoming a site. Sites can also use Let's Go!'s packet for Summer Meals Programs for support: [www.lets-go.org/wp-content/uploads/Summer-Meals-Packet.pdf](http://www.lets-go.org/wp-content/uploads/Summer-Meals-Packet.pdf).

## 3. Become a Summer Meal Sponsor

If there is no existing Summer Meal Sponsor nearby, consider becoming a sponsor! Sponsors are organizations that manage SFSP feeding sites. Sponsors must follow regulations and be responsible, financially and administratively, for running a food service program. Public or private nonprofit schools, private nonprofit organizations, and public or private nonprofit camps may become sponsors. To inquire about becoming a sponsor, call Maine Department of Education Child Nutrition Services at (207) 624-6842 and ask for the Summer Meals Coordinator. You will then be directed complete an application to become a Summer Meal Sponsor at [www.maine.gov/doe/nutrition/programs/sfsp/index.html](http://www.maine.gov/doe/nutrition/programs/sfsp/index.html). Your summer meals program will benefit your organization and help ensure that children and families in your community do not face a summer of hunger.

