

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction



May 23, 2024

## **Announcements from the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)**

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### **New Personal Safety Waiver**

USDA's Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) will consider waiver requests from State Agency's based on specific incidents related to safety concerns that make congregate meal service sites unsafe for Program participants and operators. DPI submitted the Personal Safety waiver on behalf of our Wisconsin SFSP sponsors on May 23, 2024.

Please note that approval of any such waivers would be very limited in scope and timeframe (no more than seven days), and conditional upon circumstances such as a violent crime occurring within close proximity of a site, determination of unsafe or contaminated water at a site, or other

extreme and specific conditions or incidents that would severely jeopardize the safety of program participants at a particular site.

More information will be shared on how sponsors can apply for this waiver once DPI's waiver is approved.

### **Reminder: Waiver Approvals (Excessive Heat & Poor Air Quality)**

**Excessive Heat Days:** This waiver allows SFSP and SSO sponsors, in good standing, to operate approved outdoor meal sites without temperature-controlled alternative sites as non-congregate sites on days when the area is experiencing excessive heat. These waivers may only be used on days when the [National Weather Service \(NWS\)](#) has issued a Heat Advisory, an Excessive Heat Warning, or an Excessive Heat Watch for the area in which an approved outdoor meal site is located. This waiver is effective *May 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024.*

**Air Quality Advisories:** This waiver allows SFSP and SSO sponsors, in good standing, to operate approved outdoor meal sites without alternative indoor sites as non-congregate sites on days when the area is experiencing certain air quality advisories. The threshold for determining when these waivers can be used is based on metrics developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), which are designed to help determine when to move activities indoors. Using these metrics, which equate to very unhealthy or hazardous air quality, sites may be approved for non-congregate meal service on days when the site's zip code has an Air Quality Index (AQI) "purple" flag or higher, as indicated at <https://www.airnow.gov/>. For days when air quality is a concern, but the purple flag threshold is not met, FNS recommends sponsors with outdoor sites consider the outdoor activity guidance developed by the EPA and the CDC: <https://www.airnow.gov/activity-guides-publications/>. This waiver is effective *May 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024.*

**Sponsors must be approved to provide non-congregate meals prior to the excessive heat or air quality alert day.** If interested in applying for these waivers, please send an email to [sfsp@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:sfsp@dpi.wi.gov).

### **Updated SFSP Administration Guide**

The [Summer Food Service Program Administration Guide](#) describes the policies and best practices for successful operation of traditional in-person summer meal sites and alternate meal service options for rural communities. It is tailored to anyone who is interested in learning program policy including, but not limited to, how to participate, apply, administer, and operate the SFSP at various levels.

### **Statewide SFSP Media Release**

DPI issued at a [Statewide Media Release](#) on behalf of all sponsors on May 23, 2024. This media release fulfills the requirement to notify the public of all SFSP sponsors and sites operating in Wisconsin and provides the non-discrimination statement and complaint procedure. Sponsors are not required to submit their own media release; however, sponsors of camps and enrolled sites must notify participants of the availability of free meals. Other sponsors should continue to make the community aware of open sites. Remember to register your open sites with [Wisconsin 2-1-1](#) and promote the [Summer Meals Site Finder](#). The Summer Meals Site Finder will begin providing Wisconsin's site information on 5/24/2024 and will be updated weekly, throughout the summer.

### Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service Resources



Sponsors participating in the Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service Program are required to conduct site monitoring, just as is done for non-congregate sites. Please use the [Rural Non-Congregate Site Monitoring Form](#) to complete that requirement. DPI also has a [Rural Non-congregate Multiple Meal Distribution Form](#) that can be used to document the number of meals served for multiple days.

**A reminder that Sponsors must be approved to provide non-congregate meals in rural areas!** If interested in this program, please follow the steps below to get started with the application process:

1. Listen to the [2024 Rural Non-Congregate Meal Service Webinar](#) (previously recorded)
2. Send us an email at [sfsp@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:sfsp@dpi.wi.gov)
3. We'll contact you to discuss and provide next steps, which will include submission of the Meal Service & Integrity Plan and an update to your SFSP application.

### Still Time to Register for the Crunch!



Celebrate summer by participating in the Cucumber Crunch! This is a simple, celebratory event to promote local foods and farm to summer. Pick any date this summer and have staff and children crunch into local cucumbers. If cucumbers are not available during your summer programming, choose another local, in-season fruit or vegetable to crunch!

[Register your program for the Crunch!](#) Registrants will receive free stickers and a packet of cucumber seeds for registering on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Check out the new and updated resources available for the Crunch on our [Celebrate Summer](#) page! These include more detail on the Event, a

Cucumber Press Release, new activity ideas to use for your Event and update recipes and resources to find local farmers/producers in your area.

## SFSP Outreach Materials & Summer Meals Promotion



DPI still has a number of outreach materials available to order free of charge to help promote summer meals in your community. All resources remain available with the exception of vehicle magnets and the Food Safety Booklets. Place your orders using the [Outreach Order Form](#). In addition to print materials, remember to register your open sites with [Wisconsin 2-1-1](#). DPI will begin providing open site information from approved site applications to the [Summer Meals Site Finder](#), in early June.

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Contact your [assigned SFSP consultant](#) with questions about the items in the bulletin, or other SFSP questions.  
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### *Program Abbreviation/Definition Key*

SFA=School Food Authority  
SSO=Seamless Summer Option  
SFSP=Summer Food Service Program

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction  
Community Nutrition Team  
125 South Webster Street  
P.O. Box 7841, Madison WI 53707-7841  
Phone (608) 267-9129  
<https://dpi.wi.gov/community-nutrition/sfsp>

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