



United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

works to end hunger and obesity through 15 federal nutrition assistance programs. More information is at www.fns.usda.gov.

FNS supports the StrikeForce goal to promote food security in persistent poverty communities, by working with state agencies and StrikeForce partners to increase access to and awareness of the Summer Food Service Program, the National School Breakfast Program, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefit redemptions at farmers markets for eligible recipients and participating farmers markets.

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federally-funded, state-administered program that provides reimbursement to local community providers who serve healthy meals to children and teens at no charge primarily during the summer months when school is not in session.

Children and teens age 18 and younger, and persons with disabilities over the age of 18 who participate in school programs for mentally or physically disabled people, can receive free meals and snacks during the summer at various approved locations like parks, recreation centers, schools, places of worship, summer camps, libraries, and mobile buses in low-income communities.

Organizations and local governments can apply to become a SFSP sponsor or site by contacting their state agency on the back of this flyer.

For information on your nearest summer feeding site contact the **National Hunger Hotline** at **1-866-348-6479 (1-866-3-HUNGRY)** or **1-877-842-6273 for Spanish (1-877-8-HAMBRE)**.

To search for food help online or to register your organization in the National Hunger Clearinghouse's database of hunger resources and receive referrals of individuals in need by the National Hunger Hotline visit www.whyhunger.org/findfood.

The National School Breakfast Program

provides cash assistance to states to operate nonprofit breakfast programs in schools and residential childcare institutions. Children from low-income households may be eligible for free or reduced-price school breakfast.

To receive free breakfast, families either fill out an application or are approved by the school district through direct certification. Although direct certification systems vary by state, all such systems eliminate the need for households that receive benefits under other social services to fill out a paper application.

For more on free or reduced-price school breakfast contact the state agency on the back of this flyer.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

offers nutrition assistance benefits to millions of low-income individuals and families on Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards - a type of debit card. The program's main purpose is "to permit low-income households to obtain a more nutritious diet ... by increasing their purchasing power" (Food and Nutrition Act of 2008).

Farmers' markets can apply to become authorized to accept EBT payment for food. In 2012 FNS received funds to increase availability of wireless point-of-sale (POS) equipment at farmers' markets not currently participating in SNAP. FNS is making these funds available through state agencies that administer the SNAP program. These funds can help offset the startup costs of getting the POS equipment needed to accept SNAP benefits.

Accepting EBT allows farmers' markets to widen their customer base, and increase access to healthy and local food for customers on SNAP.

To apply to become an authorized SNAP retailer visit the FNS Web site on the back of this flyer. To find out how you can access POS funds, contact the state agency on the back of this flyer.

Contact Information

South Carolina

SC Department of Education

www.ed.sc.gov

School Breakfast

Juanita Bowens-Seabrook, Child Nutrition
(803)734-8205, jbowens@ed.sc.gov

SC Department of Social Services

www.dss.sc.gov

Summer Food Service Program

Cheryl Evans-McDonald, Nutrition Services
(803) 898-0971, Cheryl.Evans-Mcdonald@dss.sc.gov

Farmers' Market Wireless Point of Sale Funds

Robin Verenes, Children and Families
(803) 898-7510, Robin.Verenes@dss.sc.gov

Federal

USDA Food and Nutrition Service

www.fns.usda.gov

School Breakfast

Steve Hortin, Southeast Regional Office
(404) 562-3019, Steve.Hortin@fns.usda.gov

Summer Food Service Program

Leisa Cook, Southeast Regional Office
(678) 704-2011, Leisa.Cook@fns.usda.gov

Farmers' Markets (Retail Application Inquiries and Electronic Benefit Transfer Questions)

FNS Retailer Operations Branch
1-877-823-4369
www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailers/applicationprocess.htm

Fraud/Abuse Hotline

USDA Office of the Inspector General
1-800-424-9121, usda_hotline@oig.usda.gov
www.usda.gov/oig/hotline.htm

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