

Summer Meals in 2024

What to Know
&
Getting Started



Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)



How it works:

- **SFSP is a federal program that feeds kids in the summer!**
 - Meals are served **free** to children
 - Meals can be served to anyone 18 and under
 - Reimbursed by USDA
- **Program may be operated in *area eligible* locations**
 - Where 50% or more if the children are enrolled in Free or Reduced-Price Meals
- **Meals can be served and eaten on site**
 - **NEW!** Meals can be provided TO GO in rural areas* – including for multiple days
 - Non-congregate option available [everywhere except parts of Chittenden County](#)

Who is involved?

- **Sponsor:** non-profit organization responsible for implementing SFSP at one or more sites
- **Site:** location where meals are served or picked up

SFSP in 2024: New Rules & New Opportunities



Summer meals can grow in 2024!

- **Schools are counting more free & reduced-price students.**
 - Directly Certifying kids for F&RP meals with Medicaid data
 - Vermont's Universal School Meals law
 - USDA expanded access to CEP, a universal provision that leads to higher count
- **More schools are reaching 50% F&RP.**
 - As many as 90 schools may gain area eligibility this summer!
- **More communities are eligible for the program.**
 - If you aren't area eligible, don't lose hope—there are some other ways of serving meals

Application process is a little more involved

- Another good reason to operate as a site within a school district's summer meal program!

Area Eligibility

Multiple ways to be eligible for SFSP

- **Your local school is 50% free and reduced-price enrolled**
 - Schools that are 50% F&RP and their attendance areas may participate
- **Census data**
 - Census Block Group or Tract with 50% F&RP eligible children
- **Closed-Enrolled meal programs (NOT open to the public)**
 - 50% of kids enrolled in our meal site program must be F&RP enrolled, then they all eat free
 - Can only serve enrolled children.



Let's walk through how to find out!

Area Eligibility - School data



Using school data to determine eligibility for SFSP

- Any school that is 50% free and reduced-price enrolled
 - Whole school attendance area is eligible
- Find your free and reduced-price enrollment on the Vermont AOE website
 - <https://education.vermont.gov/student-support/nutrition/school-meals/free-and-reduced-meals>
 - Close to the bottom of the page, click on “2023-2024 Free and Reduced Eligibility Report”
 - Any school with 50% or higher in the “% Low Income” column is eligible
- There could be some more eligible schools
 - AOE is going to be releasing an update to the report very soon with additional CEP schools, and this could mean that schools that are using Provision 2 and close to 50% could rise above 50%

Area Eligibility - School data



Example from the report:

- Bridport is area eligible (50% or above)
- Bingham, Mary Hogan are not (below 50%)
 - Recheck: after report addendum is released, schools ~40% *could* increase above 50%!
- Schools that are *very* close to 50% can collect more meal applications and become eligible by getting above the threshold

School Food Authority	School	CEP	Provision 2	Free and Reduced Students	Total Enrollment	% Low Income
Addison Central School District	Bingham Memorial School	N	Y	28	88	31.82
Addison Central School District	Bridport Central School	N	Y	35	67	52.24
Addison Central School District	Mary Hogan School	N	Y	162	385	42.08

Area Eligibility - Census data



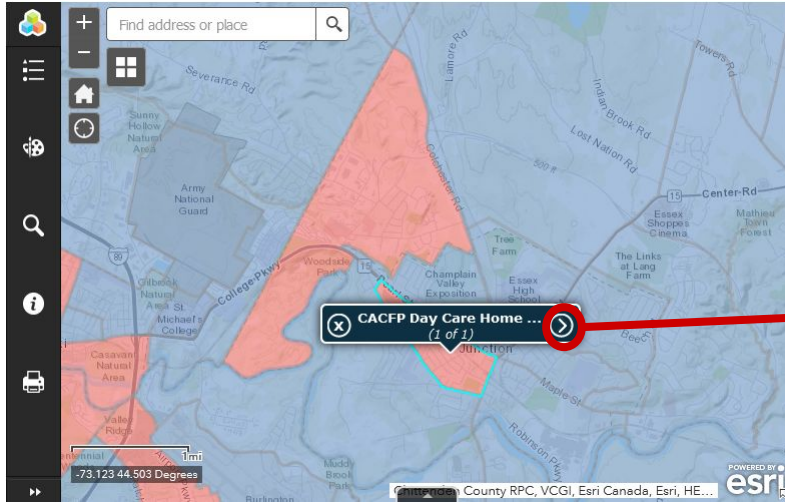
American Communities Survey (ACS) data

- Census Block Group or Tract with 50% F&RP eligible children
- USDA has a map tool to find eligible areas
 - <https://www.fns.usda.gov/area-eligibility>
 - [FRAC map tool](#) can be easier to load, if you have issues
- On USDA map, red areas are 50% F&RP and eligible (pink on FRAC map)
- Some additional adjacent areas could be eligible
 - You can average two adjoining block groups together and get over 50%-- I can help with this!

Let's see it!

Area Eligibility - Census data

In Essex Junction, two eligible block groups...



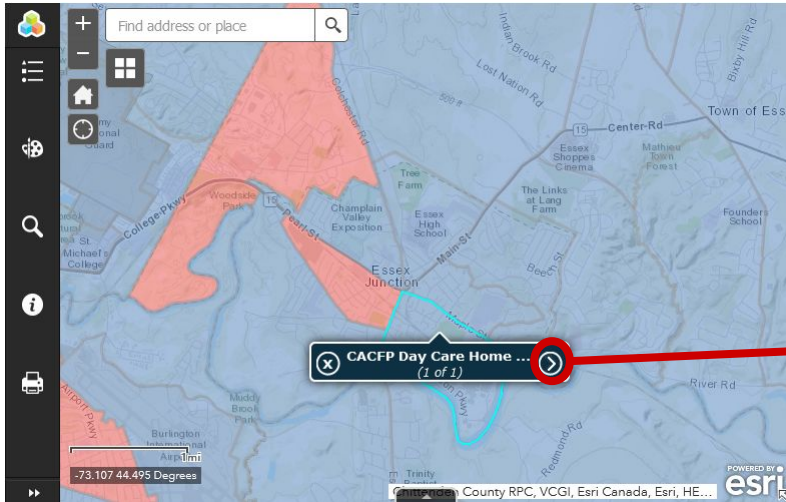
(1 of 1)

CACFP Day Care Home (Tier I) and SFSP Summer Meal Site Eligibility for FY24: 500070026014

GEOID	500070026014
State	Vermont
FY 2024 Area Eligible?	YES
CBG: Total children (0-18) (Denominator)	160
CBG: Number of children (0-18) eligible for F/RP meals (Numerator)	100
CBG: Percentage of children (0-18) eligible for F/RP meals	62.50
CBG: Total children (0-12) (Denominator)	100
CBG: Number of children (0-12) eligible for F/RP meals (Numerator)	80
CBG: Percentage of children (0-12) eligible for F/RP meals	80.00
Census Tract: Percentage of children (0-18) eligible for F/RP meals	26.70
Census Tract: Percentage of children (0-12) eligible for F/RP meals	28.10

Area Eligibility - Census data

...and one more hiding! Average 2 areas (over 40%) together



$$(80+85)/(100+205) = 54\%$$

	(1 of 1)	1 of 1
CACFP Day Care Home (Tier I) and SFSP Summer Meal Site Eligibility for FY24		
GEOID	500070026014	500070026021
State	Vermont	Vermont
FY 2024 Area Eligible?	YES	NO
CBG: Total children (0-18) (Denominator)	160	210
CBG: Number of children (0-18) eligible for F/RP meals (Numerator)	100	90
CBG: Percentage of children (0-18) eligible for F/RP meals	62.50	42.90
CBG: Total children (0-12) (Denominator)	100	205
CBG: Number of children (0-12) eligible for F/RP meals (Numerator)	80	85
CBG: Percentage of children (0-12) eligible for F/RP meals	80.00	41.50
Census Tract: Percentage of children (0-18) eligible for F/RP meals	26.70	18.20
Census Tract: Percentage of children (0-12) eligible for F/RP meals	28.10	28.40
...		

Census data is complicated... ask us for help!

Getting Started



Once you determine that you are eligible, what's next?

- Reach out to your school
 - District Food Service Director (if applicable)
 - Business Manager (if no district director)
 - Find the right contact info on the SU website
- See if the district could take you on as additional site!
- There will be program webinars from AOE in April and you can find lots more info about the program on their website:
 - <https://education.vermont.gov/student-support/nutrition/summer-food-service>

Not Eligible? You could still run a closed-enrolled program or camp program that only serves kids participating in your programming. C-E programs are free for all kids if 50% of enrolled kids are F&RP. Camps reimbursed based on child eligibility.

Outreach Materials

Hunger Free Vermont has outreach materials!

We have printed materials to share with families and kids

<https://www.hungerfreevt.org/summer-meals>



- Bookmarks
- Posters
- Lawn Signs
- Graphics
- Fliers
- ...and more!

Order Form coming soon!



Hunger Free Vermont is here to help!



Help starting a meal program or site:



Tim Morgan, CN Policy & Training Lead

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Get outreach materials & support:



Mariana Lamaison Sears, Outreach Lead

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