

SOUTH CAROLINA

# SUMMER BREAK *Café*



TOOLKIT

# PROGRAM

## Overview

The Summer Food Service Program is a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) program coined Summer Break Café in South Carolina, first launched in 1968. The program is designed to provide children and teens up to two free meals per day during the summer months. An estimated one in six South Carolina children are at-risk of food insecurity – the limited or uncertain access to adequate food. Summer Break Cafés help provide much needed nutrition for children across the state.

**In 2024, 3.7 million meals were served across 46 counties.**

There are four key stakeholders that help operate the Summer Break Café program. USDA provides federal support and funding to states. The state administrative agency, SC Department of Education, is responsible for a variety of roles. Those responsibilities include:

- 1 Approving all sponsor and site applications
- 2 Conducting all sponsor training for new and existing sponsors
- 3 Monitoring operations
- 4 Processing claims for reimbursement
- 5 Administrative review of the program

Most community members are more familiar with the roles sponsors and sites play in the community. Sponsors are the organizations that are responsible for meals and overseeing sites. There are over 104 sponsors statewide. Sites are the locations from which children and teens receive their meals.



# SPONSOR Requirements and Role

Sponsors are composed of a variety of organization types. For an organization to serve as a Summer Break Café sponsor, they must meet one of the following categories below:

1

Public or nonprofit private school food authority

2

Public or private nonprofit summer residential camp

3

Government entity (local, municipal, county, or state)

4

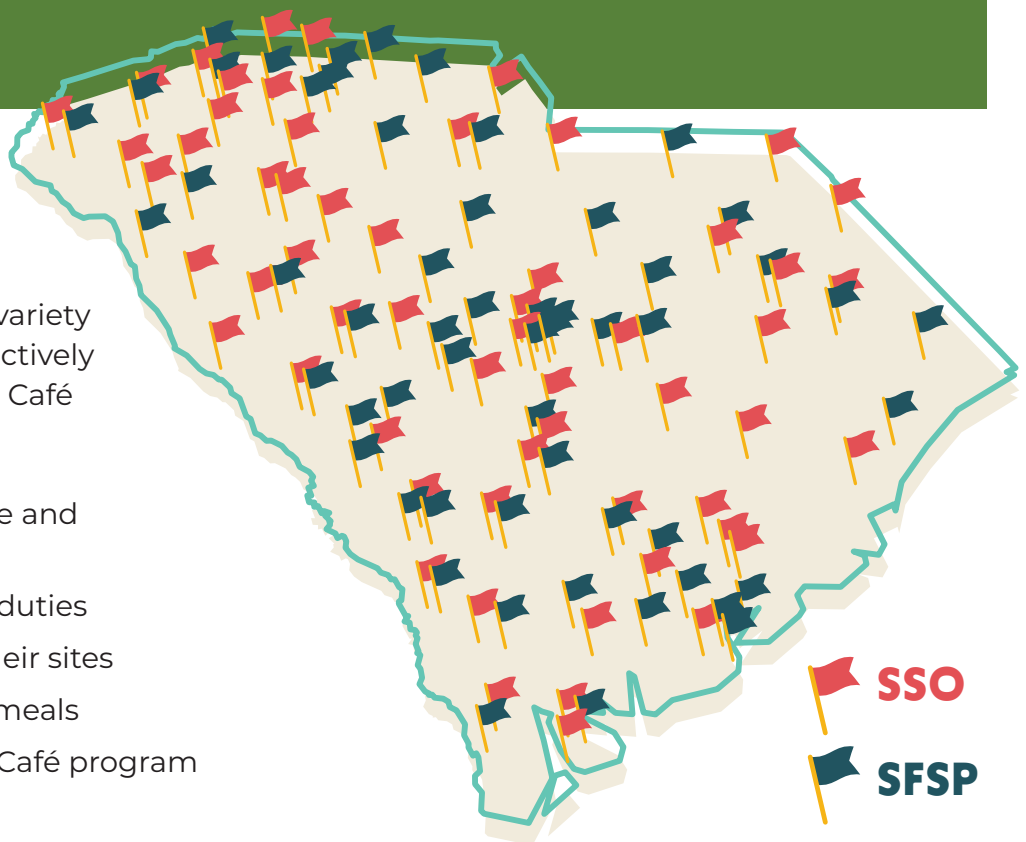
Public or nonprofit private colleges or universities that participate in the national youth sports program

5

Private nonprofit organizations

Sponsors are responsible for a variety of tasks to ensure they can effectively implement the Summer Break Café program, including:

- Providing technical assistance and monitoring of their sites
- Financial and administrative duties
- Provide annual training for their sites
- Source a vendor or self-prep meals
- Promote the Summer Break Café program



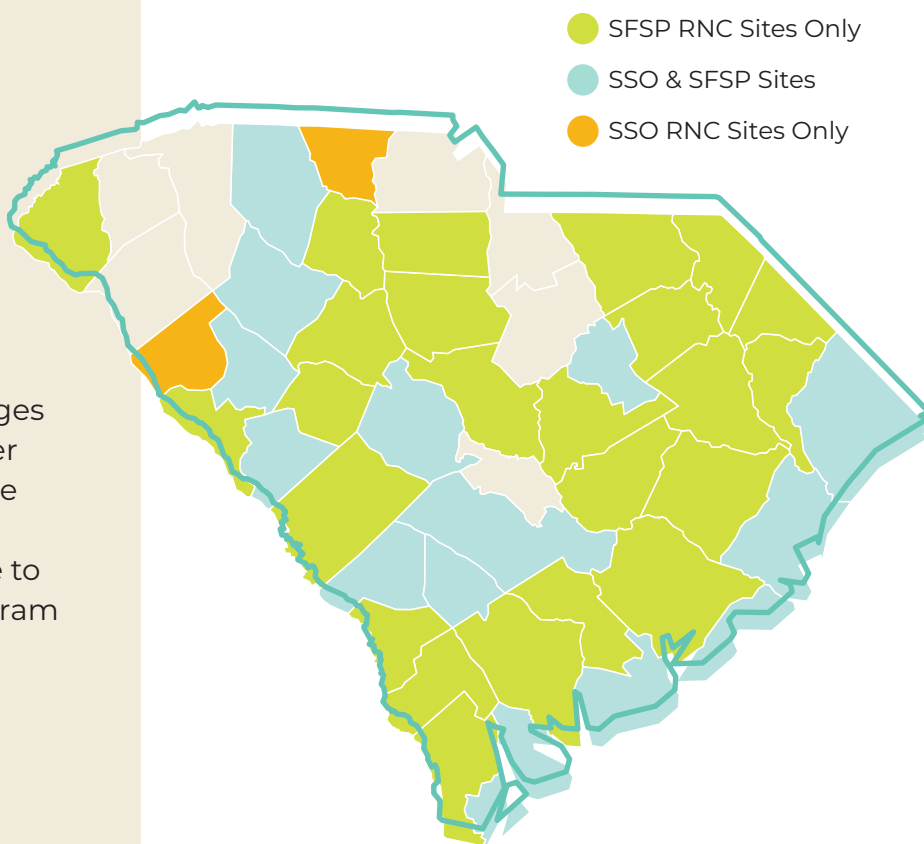


# SSO *versus* SFSP

Only schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program can participate in the Seamless Summer Option (SSO). This option provides a slightly lower reimbursement rate, however, it operates under the same rules as the National School Lunch Program making for a more seamless transition into summer.

Non-profits, government entities, colleges and universities and residential summer camps are only able to participate in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) model option. Schools may also choose to operate their Summer Break Café program under this model to receive a higher reimbursement rate compared to the SSO option.

## Rural Non-Congregate Counties Summer 2024





# Reimbursement RATES

Every year USDA releases updated reimbursement rates for the program based on changes in the consumer price index. Below are the rates for summer 2025. Please note that all sponsor expenditures are covered in the reimbursement rate including food costs, administrative costs, packaging, logistics, etc. Sponsors can serve up to two meals per day to a site. Sites can receive a variety of meal types on the same day including: breakfast and lunch, snack and lunch, morning snack and afternoon snack or dinner and snack. Sponsors are not able to provide a site lunch and dinner on the same day.

| Meal Types     | Rural or Self-Prep Rates | All Other Site Type Rates |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Breakfast      | \$3.0875                 | \$3.03                    |
| Lunch / Supper | \$5.4025                 | \$5.3150                  |
| Snack          | \$1.28                   | \$1.25                    |

Self-prep sites can buy ingredients and prepare a meal on-site each day, buy already prepared food and reheat it each day or utilize a combination of the two. Sites that prepare meals must have the capacity to do so safely— usually this means having a commercial-grade kitchen that meets health inspection standards. Sites that reheat prepared foods must also have some capacity for preparation (such as an oven or a microwave). Self-prep sites have more control over the type and variety of food they serve, but they still must follow the federal nutrition guidelines for reimbursement.

Vended sites have fully prepared meals delivered to them; thus, minimal daily food preparation is necessary at the site and may not be necessary depending on the meals provided. Sponsors have the responsibility of finding a vendor for their sites. This requires putting out a bid specifying sites' food and delivery requirements and signing a contract with the lowest bidder. However, if the vendor is a public-school food service department, the contract does not require additional bids.

If your organization is interested in becoming a sponsor you may reach out to SCDOE directly by filling out a brief online interest form.

**Become a Sponsor**





# SITE REQUIREMENTS & ROLE

A site is a physical location approved by the state agency where meals are served, and children eat in a supervised setting. To be eligible to serve as a site the location must be in an area where at least 50% of children are eligible for free or reduced priced school meals based on either census or school data. Eligible sites are those that serve children in low-income areas or those that serve specific groups of low-income children. The Summer Break Café program is not an income-based program, therefore, any child or teen 18 and younger is able to eat at a site. Sites are required to:

- Attend training provided by their sponsor
- Keep record of meals served
- Distribute meals to children and teens according to the USDA program guidelines
- Store food appropriately before serving
- Provide site supervision



## Potential Site Types

Apartment Complexes

Faith-Based Organizations

Healthcare Facilities  
(ie. hospital or pediatric clinic)

Libraries

Parks and Recreation Facilities

Schools

YMCA's

Other Locations  
Children and Teens Congregate







# RURAL SITES *versus* URBAN SITES

Summer Break Café sites can operate in both rural and urban settings. In December 2023, USDA established the rural non-congregate option. For years, all kids and teens that ate a meal at a Summer Break Café site had to consume the meal on site due to the congregate meal requirement. This is still the case for urban sites, however, now sites that are designated rural by USDA have more flexibility where youth are no longer required to eat their meal on site. Rural sites have several options to make it easier for kids and teens to access meals including:

## Grab and Go Option

Children and teens can simply pick up an already prepared meal(s) and eat at the time and location of their choice.

## Bulk Meal Option

Through this option children and teens can receive multiple meals at a time. For example, a teen may visit a site on Monday and pick up four meals (Monday and Tuesday) then return to the site on Wednesday to pick up enough meals for the rest of the week.

## Parent/Guardian Pick up

A parent or guardian is now able to pick up food for kids and teens even without that youth being present. The parent/guardian must provide a school ID or another identifying method to showcase they have an eligible student in order to receive meals.

If your organization is interested in becoming a new Summer Break Café site you may contact a sponsor in your area directly or reach out to SC Department of Education and fill out a short online interest form. A statewide list of SSO and SFSP sponsors can be found in the appendix.

**Become a Site**







# OUTREACH

It is very important for community members to help spread the word about Summer Break Café. Even though the program is 57 years old, many parents still are unfamiliar with the program. Most Summer Break Café sites operate for only several weeks out of the year; however, it takes year-round planning for the program to be successful. Local food policy councils, community health coalitions, and other community-wide groups are great fits to champion the program for the entire community. Community groups can plan an annual meeting during the spring to bring together sponsors, existing and potential new sites, parents, and community members to develop a plan to enhance the Summer Break Café experience for their community. Please reference the Summer Break Café planning meeting agenda in the appendix.

## Ideas for Promotion

- Encourage your local school district to share a list of sites in the area before the end of the school year.
- Invite your local officials to visit a site and promote the program on their social media channels.
- Ask faith-based groups in your community to put information about the Summer Break Café program in their weekly announcements.
- Post flyers at popular family locations in the community such as museums, libraries, laundromats, food banks and parks and recreation facilities.
- Contact your local tv station, radio station and newspaper to highlight the program.
- Display yard signs at each Summer Break Café site so children and teens can easily recognize them from the street.
- Include Summer Break Café flyers in bi-weekly FoodShare SC produce box distributions during the summer months.
- Additional ideas to support outreach of the program can be found in the appendix.

### How Community Members and Organizations Can Support

- ☒ Recruit a new sponsor
- ☒ Recruit a new site(s)
- ☒ Volunteer at a site
- ☒ Promote the program



# APPENDIX

## 2025 Summer Break Café Sponsor List

| Sponsor Name                                | Sponsor Type | Phone Number              | Counties Served |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Abbeville County School District            | SSO          | (864) 366-5427 Ext: 21066 | Abbeville       |
| Aiken County Housing                        | SFSP         | (803) 617-7980            | Aiken           |
| Aiken County Public School District         | SSO          | (803) 641-2428            | Aiken           |
| Allendale County School District            | SSO          | (803) 584-4603 Ext: 1113  | Allendale       |
| Anderson School District 1                  | SSO          | (864) 847-7344 Ext: 22131 | Anderson        |
| Anderson School District 2                  | SFSP         | (803) 617-7980            | Anderson        |
| Anderson School District 3                  | SFSP         | (803) 617-7980            | Anderson        |
| Anderson School District 4                  | SSO          | (864) 403-2035            | Anderson        |
| Anderson School District 5                  | SSO          | (864) 260-5000 Ext: 10250 | Anderson        |
| Bamberg County School District              | SSO          | (803) 676-2388            | Bamberg         |
| Barnwell County School District             | SSO          | (803) 541-3582            | Barnwell        |
| Beaufort County School District             | SSO          | (336) 577-6974            | Beaufort        |
| Berkeley Charter Education Association, Inc | SSO          | (954) 202-3500            | Berkeley        |
| Berkeley County School District             | SSO          | (843) 899-8772            | Berkeley        |
| Boys and Girls Club of the Pee Dee          | SFSP         | (843) 662-1142            | Florence        |
| Calhoun County School District              | SSO          | (803) 655-2615            | Calhoun         |
| Chabad Academy                              | SSO          | (843) 448-0035            | Horry           |
| Charleston County School District           | SSO          | (843) 566-8153            | Charleston      |
| Chester County School District              | SSO          | 803) 379-4098             | Chester         |
| Cherry Hill Missionary Baptist Church       | SFSP         | (843) 333-8420            | Horry           |
| Chesterfield County School District         | SFSP         | (843) 307-8488            | Chesterfield    |
| Cherokee County School District             | SFSP         | 864-909-2998              | Cherokee        |

| Sponsor Name                                   | Sponsor Type | Phone Number              | Counties Served                          |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| City of Charleston                             | SFSP         | (843) 830-4917            | Charleston                               |
| City of Chester                                | SFSP         | (803) 379-4099            | Chester                                  |
| City of North Charleston                       | SFSP         | (843) 554-8820            | Charleston                               |
| Claflin University                             | SFSP         | (803) 535-5058            | Orangeburg                               |
| Clarendon County School District               | SSO          | (803) 435-8326            | Clarendon                                |
| Cliffin Major Driffin (CMD) Pantry             | SSO          | (843) 206-2642            | Williamsburg                             |
| Colleton County Government                     | SFSP         | (843) 909-3250            | Colleton, Dorchester and Hampton         |
| Colleton County School District                | SSO          | (843) 782-0039            | Colleton                                 |
| Community Assistance and Mentoring Prog (CAMP) | SFSP         | (803) 446-0116            | Calhoun, Fairfield, Orangeburg, Richland |
| Darlington County CAA                          | SFSP         | (843) 332-1135            | Darlington                               |
| Darlington County School District              | SSO          | (843) 398-2315            | Darlington                               |
| Destiny Fellowship Church                      | SFSP         | (864) 585-7066            | Spartanburg, Union                       |
| Dillon County School District                  | SSO          | (843) 774-1200 Ext: 6     | Dillon                                   |
| Dorchester School District 2                   | SSO          | (843) 695-4920            | Dorchester                               |
| Dorchester School District 4                   | SFSP         | (843) 563-5906            | Dorchester                               |
| Edgefield County School District               | SSO          | (803) 275-5788 Ext. 3     | Edgefield                                |
| Fairfield County School District               | SFSP         | (803) 635-4607            | Fairfield                                |
| Florence School District 1                     | SSO          | (843) 799-6101            | Florence                                 |
| Florence School District 3                     | SSO          | (843) 374-8652 Ext. 10211 | Florence                                 |
| Freedom Within Walls                           | SFSP         | (888) 389-4970            | Anderson, Greenville, Pickens            |
| Full Gospel Christian Academy                  | SSO          | (803) 788-9814            | Richland                                 |
| Georgetown County School District              | SSO          | (843) 436-7078 Ext: 7078  | Georgetown                               |
| Greenville County School District              | SSO          | (864) 355-3011            | Greenville                               |
| Greenwood School District 50                   | SSO          | (864) 941-3471            | Greenwood                                |
| Greenwood School District 52                   | SSO          | (864) 941-3471            | Greenwood                                |
| Hampton County School District                 | SSO          | (803) 903-1015 Ext: 1015  | Hampton                                  |
| Harvest Hope                                   | SFSP         | (803) 542-0006            | Darlington, Marlboro                     |
| Horry County School District                   | SFSP         | (843) 488-6931            | Horry                                    |
| Jasper County School District                  | SSO          | (843) 489-8845 Ext: 3408  | Jasper                                   |
| KT Destiny Center, Inc.                        | SFSP         | (843) 441-0355            | Hampton, Jasper                          |
| Lancaster County School District               | SSO          | (803) 286-6972 Ext: 8810  | Lancaster                                |
| Laurens School District 55                     | SSO          | (864) 984-8138 Ext: 0     | Laurens                                  |



| Sponsor Name                                  | Sponsor Type | Phone Number              | Counties Served                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Laurens School District 56                    | SSO          | (864) 938-2037            | Laurens                                                                        |
| Lee County School District                    | SFSP         | (803) 229-2784            | Lee                                                                            |
| Lexington School District 1                   | SFSP         | (803) 821-1169            | Lexington                                                                      |
| Lexington School District 2                   | SFSP         | (803) 739-4010            | Lexington                                                                      |
| Lexington School District 3                   | SSO          | (803) 532-1748            | Lexington                                                                      |
| Lexington School District 4                   | SSO          | (803) 490-7000 Ext: 10051 | Lexington                                                                      |
| Lexington-Richland County School District 5   | SFSP         | (803) 476-8030            | Lexington, Richland                                                            |
| Lowcountry CAA                                | SFSP         | (843) 635-1608            | Colleton                                                                       |
| Lowcountry Food Bank                          | SFSP         | (843) 747-8146            | Beaufort, Berkley, Charleston, Dorchester, Georgetown, Horry, Jasper           |
| McCormick County School District              | SSO          | (864) 852-0636 Ext: 0636  | McCormick                                                                      |
| Marion County School District                 | SSO          | (843) 423-1811 Ext: 1036  | Marion                                                                         |
| Marlboro County School District               | SSO          | (843) 456-7499            | Marlboro                                                                       |
| Meyers School of Excellence                   | SSO          | (954) 202-3500            | Berkeley                                                                       |
| MUSC                                          | SFSP         | (843) 792-9644            | Charleston, Chester, Florence, Kershaw, Lancaster, Orangeburg and Williamsburg |
| Navel Weapons Station Youth Center            | SFSP         | (843) 963-3132            | Berkley                                                                        |
| Newberry County School District               | SSO          | (803) 321-2600 Ext: 20190 | Newberry                                                                       |
| Oconee County School District                 | SSO          | (770) 255-8328            | Oconee                                                                         |
| Orangeburg County School District             | SSO          | (803) 534-5454 Ext: 82005 | Orangeburg                                                                     |
| Orangeburg High School for Health Professions | SSO          | (803) 682-4720            | Orangeburg                                                                     |
| Partners for Change of the Carolinas          | SFSP         | (803) 360-7896            | Clarendon, Florence, Sumter                                                    |
| Performing Arts and Science Academy (PASA)    | SFSP         | (843) 230-1298            | Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Lee, Marion, Marlboro                            |
| Pickens County School District                | SSO          | (864) 397-1166            | Pickens                                                                        |
| Pickens County YMCA                           | SFSP         | (864) 898-9185            | Pickens                                                                        |
| Project HOST                                  | SFSP         | (864) 235-3403            | Greenville                                                                     |
| Richland School District One                  | SFSP         | (803) 231-6953            | Richland                                                                       |
| Richland School District Two                  | SSO          | (803) 419-2716            | Richland                                                                       |
| Riverview Charter School                      | SSO          | (843) 379-0123 Ext: 1045  | Beaufort                                                                       |
| Saluda County School District                 | SSO          | (864) 445-8441 Ext: 219   | Saluda                                                                         |
| Sardis Baptist Church                         | SFSP         | (803) 568-3996            | Lexington                                                                      |

| Sponsor Name                                | Sponsor Type | Phone Number             | Counties Served                                 |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Serenity Charity Club, Inc.                 | SFSP         | (706) 755-0357           | Aiken                                           |
| Sheep Gate Ministries, Inc.                 | SFSP         | (864) 337-6980           | Greenwood, Saluda                               |
| Smart Box                                   | SFSP         | (803) 508-5837           | Allendale, Barnwell, Beaufort, Hampton, Jasper  |
| Spartanburg School District 1               | SSO          | (864) 472-1500 Ext: 3270 | Spartanburg                                     |
| Spartanburg School District 2               | SSO          | (864) 515-5145           | Spartanburg                                     |
| Spartanburg School District 3               | SFSP         | (864) 279-6830           | Spartanburg                                     |
| Spartanburg School District 4               | SSO          | (864) 476-3186 Ext: 2127 | Spartanburg                                     |
| Spartanburg School District 5               | SSO          | (570) 898-8643           | Spartanburg                                     |
| Spartanburg School District 6               | SFSP         | (864) 216-4350           | Spartanburg                                     |
| Spartanburg School District 7               | SFSP         | (864) 596-8484           | Spartanburg                                     |
| St Anthony of Padua Catholic School         | SSO          | (864) 271-0167 Ext: 216  | Greenville                                      |
| Summerville Preparatory Academy             | SSO          | (954) 202-3500           | Dorchester                                      |
| Sumter County School District               | SSO          | (803) 499-5950 Ext. 109  | Sumter                                          |
| The Family YMCA                             | SFSP         | (706) 922-9130           | Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Edgefield, Orangeburg |
| Thornwell Charter School                    | SSO          | (864) 938-2134           | Laurens                                         |
| Union School District                       | SFSP         | (864) 429-1748 ext. 717  | Union                                           |
| United Way of Kershaw County                | SFSP         | (803) 432-0951           | Kershaw                                         |
| Upstate Circle of Friends                   | SFSP         | (864) 201-8591           | Greenville, Oconee                              |
| York County School District 1               | SFSP         | (802) 322-8084           | York                                            |
| York County School District 3               | SSO          | (803) 981-1003           | York                                            |
| Young Men's Christian Association of Sumter | SFSP         | (803) 773-1404           | Sumter                                          |

# SBC Community Meeting Guide

**Meeting Objective:** Brainstorm ways in which we can collectively address gaps in Summer Break Café across the county and connect children and families to summer meals and more.

## AGENDA TOPIC

## TIME (MINUTES)

Total: 1hr 30m

### Introductions and Announcements



### Overview of Summer Break Café and Share Data from the Previous Summer

- Provide a brief overview about the Summer Break Café program.
- Report the sponsors and sites that operated in the community the previous year.
- Highlight any successes from the previous summer (e.g., increase of meals served, new sponsor in the area, served non-congregate meals for the first time, etc.).



### Brainstorm Ways to Increase Sites in the Community

- Look at data from the previous year to see what parts of the community did not have a site.
- What sponsors have the capacity to take on additional sites?
- Examples for potential sites include: libraries, faith-based organizations, parks, apartment complexes, farmers markets, etc.



### Discuss Potential Wrap Around Service Partners That Can Assist (e.g., YMCA, SNAP-Ed, EFNEP, etc.)

- Are there any organizations that can provide free activities to children and teens at the sites?
- What information from community partners can be shared with children and teens to take home?



### Develop Ideas to Market and Promote

- How do we get more children and teens to participate in the program?



### Recap Next Steps and Close





# National Resources

## US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

[Summer Meals for Kids Site Finder](#)

[Rural Designation Map](#)

## SC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (SCDOE)

[General Information](#)

[Summer Break Café Sponsor Pre Screener](#)

## SHARE OUR STRENGTH'S NO KID HUNGRY CAMPAIGN

[Summer Meals Outreach Toolkit](#)

[Non-Congregate Sponsor Grants](#)

[Summer Meals Recorded Webinars](#)

[Harvest Hope Non-Congregate Case Study](#)





# Statewide Summer Food Resources for Children and Teens

Call the United Way Hotline at 211 to learn about additional resources.

Interested in seeing if you are eligible for SNAP/EBT benefits? Scan the QR Code below to learn more and apply through SC Department of Social Services.



## Summer Break Café

Youth and teens ages 18 and under are able to receive up to two free meals per day at a summer break cafe site. Find a summer break cafe site near you by visiting <https://www.fns.usda.gov/summer/sitefinder>



## Farmers Markets

Support local farmers and visit a farmers market near you. Most farmers markets accept a variety of payments including: SNAP, WIC, Cash, and Card. Visit <https://gis.dhec.sc.gov/Farmersmarkets> to find a farmers market near you.



## FoodShare SC

An organization that offers a variety of programs including a bi-weekly produce box in 30 counties that features 9-11 varieties of fruits and vegetables at wholesale costs. Produce boxes can be purchased with cash or SNAP/Healthy Bucks. Visit <https://foodsharesc.org/> to learn more.



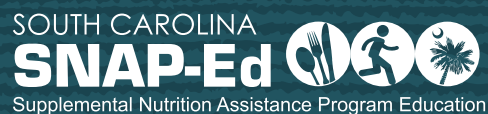
## Healthy Bucks

A program that allows SNAP recipients to spend \$5 in SNAP benefits and receive an additional \$15 in Healthy Bucks tokens to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from a participating Healthy Bucks Vendors. Find a Healthy Bucks vendor near you at <https://dss.sc.gov/assistance-programs/food-and-nutrition-programs/healthy-bucks/>

# Acknowledgments



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Thank you to University of South Carolina SNAP-Ed for developing this toolkit, empowering communities to provide nutritious summer meals for children and teens statewide.

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