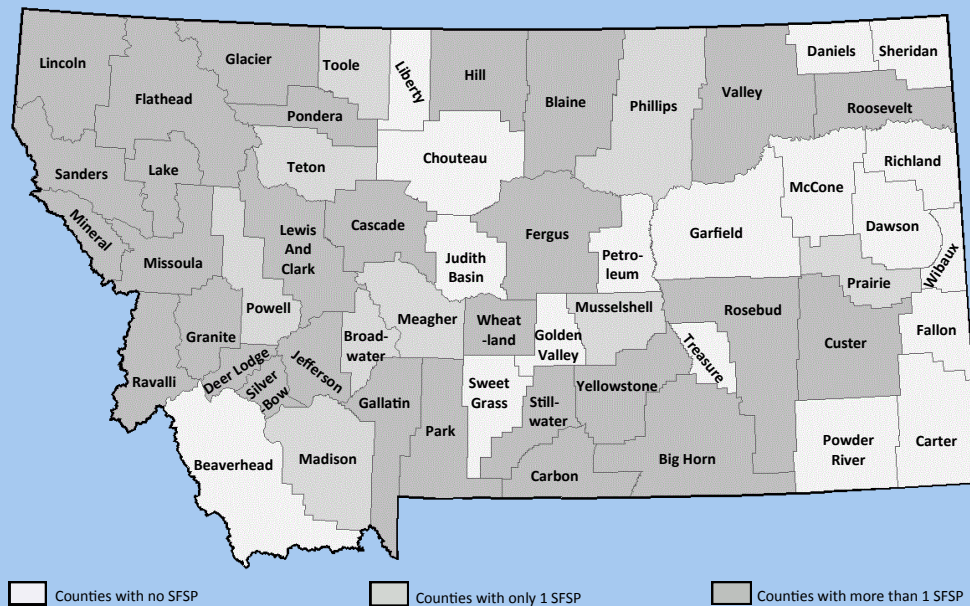


Summer Food Service Program Meal Gap

One of the biggest barriers to participating in the Summer Food Service Program is overcoming the distance to the nearest meal site. Many families, especially those from rural areas, either have to travel a long way in order to reach a feeding site, or have no program available. As of summer 2014, there are still 17 counties in Montana with no feeding site, and 9 with only one site in the entire county.

According to a study called *Map the Meal Gap* by Feeding America, "Counties with the highest rates of food insecurity are more likely to be found in rural areas than in metropolitan regions." This means that some of the most vulnerable families in Montana are likely to be found in the rural counties that currently have no SFSP program.

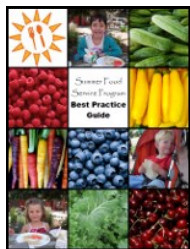
Want to see this change? Consider starting a SFSP in your community, or join with an existing site to help increase the number of kids participating in the program. No child should have to go hungry during the summer months.



SFSP Resources

Looking for resources to help start a Summer food site or expand your current program? Check out the list of resources created by the Montana Food Bank Network and Montana No Kid Hungry. You can find all these documents at:

www.mfbn.org/summerfood.



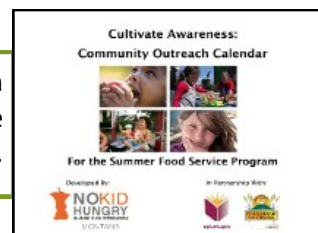
Summer Food Service Program Best Practice Guide: A collection of Q and A's with some of the top programs around the state. Pick the brains of sponsors who run these programs to get ideas on how to increase participation at your site.

Montana Summer Food Service Program Activity Book: List of activities that sponsors can use to create more interest and engage kids at their SFSP sites.



Guide to Starting a Summer Food Service Program: The ultimate guide to starting a SFSP. All the facts needed to know in order to get a SFSP off the ground.

Cultivate Awareness Community Outreach Calendar: Month by month calendar with helpful strategies and suggestions on how to spread the word and increase awareness of your Summer Food Site.



MFBN works with Office of Public Instruction and Montana No Kid Hungry to increase access to the Summer Food Service Program. SFSP is administered by OPI School Nutrition Programs. For more information, call OPI at: 406.444.2501



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

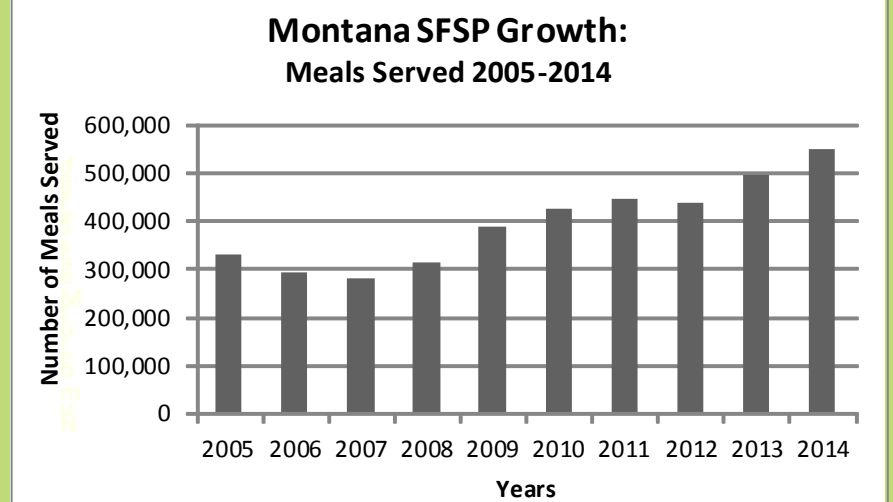


Montana Summer Food Service Program Report Card Summer 2014

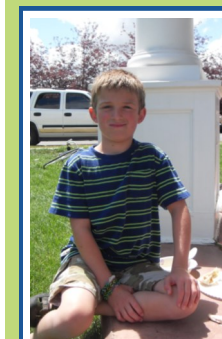
40 Years of Serving Kids

Summer of 2015 marks the 40th anniversary of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). As we approach this important anniversary, it's important to recognize how the program has grown in our state and how it continues to help provide healthy food to Montana's kids during the summer months.

Beginning as part of a pilot project in 1968, SFSP was fully established as its own program in 1975. For families who rely on School Nutrition Programs during the school year, SFSP is an important program ensuring that children continue to receive the nourishment needed both mentally and physically during the summer months. Without this program, many families would struggle to make up for the loss of school meals and potentially stretch their food budgets too thin in order to feed their kids during the summer months. This is why nearly 40 years ago, summer feeding sites were started in neighborhoods and communities around the country where kids could come, free of charge and eat a healthy, well-balanced meal. For nearly 40 years this program has provided food to the most vulnerable communities across the country and continues to be an important part of ending childhood hunger.



SFSP continues to grow in Montana, reaching new communities and serving more meals. On average, over 8,500 kids participated in SFSP across Montana each day during summer 2014, which is a 4% increase over the year before. Montana's 92 SFSP sponsors served nearly 550,000 breakfasts, lunches, suppers and snacks to Montana kids in 2014, which is a 9.5% increase over the year before. For a better look at how this program has grown in the state over the last decade, check out the "Montana SFSP Growth" graph.



Although there are many successes to celebrate about this program, there is still a lot of room for growth. Even with the increase in number of meals served, only 20% of students eligible for free or reduced price meals during the school year participated in SFSP in summer 2014. There are still many Montana kids at risk of going hungry who do not have access to this important program. In this report, you will find information on the utilization of SFSP at the county level. Please take a look and see how SFSP is working in your community!

This report was created by the Montana Food Bank Network with data supplied by the Montana Office of Public Instruction. For more information about the report, contact MFBN at 406.721.3825.



County	Number of Sponsors	Number of Sites	Average Number of Serving Days	Total Meals Served	Average Daily Participation	% Change from 2013-2014	% Eligible That Participate	Rank
Big Horn	5	8	36	37,402	712	21%	42%	7
Blaine	3	4	66	16,753	315	-25%	44%	6
Broadwater	1	1	46	3,498	76	40%	40%	8
Carbon	4	4	17	2,554	81	59%	22%	20
Cascade	6	10	30	23,456	404	47%	11%	32
Custer	1	2	54	7,271	113	11%	33%	14
Deer Lodge	1	9	37	5,615	101	-37%	29%	15
Fergus	3	3	74	8,639	100	-8%	19%	24
Flathead	3	8	34	14,961	256	-11%	7%	35
Gallatin	1	8	78	12,347	138	14%	6%	36
Glacier	2	13	43	27,661	317	-7%	20%	23
Granite	2	2	46	3,203	46	191%	40%	9
Hill	5	9	48	48,445	492	15%	35%	11
Jefferson	1	2	24	2,826	61	5%	19%	25
Lake	6	8	30	28,480	514	31%	25%	17
Lewis & Clark	3	7	57	21,373	393	26%	18%	26
Lincoln	4	6	39	8,750	146	-19%	16%	27
Madison	1	1	27	1,366	30	9%	12%	31
Meagher	0	1	55	4,320	39	-1%	45%	5
Mineral	1	2	24	1,699	54	-33%	63%	2
Missoula	4	10	42	37,150	598	22%	15%	28
Musselshell	1	1	58	4,945	61	11%	22%	19
Park	2	2	24	7,342	129	41%	25%	16
Phillips	1	1	14	357	13	-	4%	38
Pondera	2	5	62	26,461	235	23%	63%	1
Powell	0	1	32	901	28	-14%	14%	30
Prairie	1	1	39	1,387	24	-26%	36%	10
Ravalli	4	5	40	7,194	147	13%	9%	34
Roosevelt	2	5	51	32,624	447	33%	34%	13
Rosebud	3	5	47	15,656	262	38%	23%	18
Sanders	6	7	25	10,369	244	-11%	35%	12
Silver Bow	3	10	31	15,494	313	-6%	21%	22
Stillwater	1	2	39	2,554	35	59%	15%	29
Teton	1	1	87	622	5	-19%	2%	39
Tool	1	1	85	1,054	8	-30%	4%	37
Valley	1	2	59	3,670	47	-24%	10%	33
Wheatland	1	4	55	8,532	75	24%	48%	4
Yellowstone	5	21	53	88,921	1459	12%	22%	21
Montana	92	192	38	545,852	8,518	12%	20%	-

Average Daily Participation

There is no set methodology for ADP calculation. States often disagree on the “correct” method, which often differs from what the USDA reports on a national level. For this report, average daily participation for each sponsor is calculated by dividing the total number of meals served at whichever meal had the highest meal count, typically lunch, by the number of operation days reported for that sponsor. County level ADP was calculated by finding the sum of all sponsor ADPs and state level ADP was determined by finding the sum of all county level values. MFBN uses only one meal to calculate ADP to avoid counting children who eat multiple meals at each site as two different individuals.

Key:

Number of Sponsors: Total number of SFSP sponsors in each county.

Number of Sites: Total number of SFSP sites in each county.

Average Number of Serving Days: The average number of serving days reported by each sponsor divided by the total number of sponsors.

Total Meals Served: The total number of breakfasts, lunches, suppers, and snacks served through SFSP.

Average Daily Participation: See box titled “Average Daily Participation” to the left.

% Change from 2013-2014: The change in total meals served through SFSP in 2013 compared to the total meals served in 2014.

% Eligible that Participate: Compares the average number of children who ate at least one meal though the SFSP each day to the average number of children who ate a FRP lunch during the school year though the National School Lunch Program.

Rank: Based on % Eligible that Participate .

Lunch in the Sun

New Summer Food Program in Red Lodge

Most Summer Food programs are run by one sponsor that takes care of cooking, recruiting volunteers, paperwork, menu planning, meal counts, training and advertising on their own. In Red Lodge, however, the community decided to take a different approach. When the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation first heard about SFSP, they held a meeting with school administration, local nonprofits and church leaders to discuss how to make SFSP work in their community. Out of the initial meeting, they were able to put together a committee comprised of members from the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation, Calvary Episcopal Church, the local Boys and Girls Club, and the local food bank. The committee then met four times before the start of summer to get all the details in order. Calvary Episcopal Church offered to be the sponsor, but knew that the day to day running of the program could not be done by them alone. They Boys and Girls Club offered their kitchen facilities, as well as their cook to make the meals each day. And the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation offered to secure a place to eat the meals, manage volunteers, and help with the day to day set up for the program.

A typical serving day for the Red Lodge Summer Food program started at the Boys and Girls Club where the cook created meals for both the club as well as those participating in SFSP. Some of the favorite meals included macaroni and cheese, tacos, chicken Cesar wraps, sloppy joes, ham/turkey sandwiches, and pasta. On top of making the meals, the cook was also in charge of menu planning and food procurement. Once the meal was created, a member of the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation came with a troop of volunteers to deliver the food to the serving site in a nearby park. With the food was delivered and serving tables set up underneath the park gazebo, the children of Red Lodge wandered into the park accompanied by older sibling or parents, to receive their free meal. On days with nice weather the children ate at picnic tables under the sun of the warm summer day. On rainy days, children ate under the protection of the gazebo or in the Boys and Girls Club if the weather was too severe to be outside. After eating, children ran through the large park lawn playing games, or sat on the steps of the gazebo talking with friends and occasionally partaking in free otter pops and cookies that were donated to the program by local community organizations.

One of the major reasons for this program’s success was all the volunteers who helped set up and serve the meals every day. Each member of the SFSP steering committee volunteered to serve one day and recruit three other people from their organization to help. They also targeted local groups and asked if they would be willing to volunteer and made volunteering easy and clear. Volunteers came from local churches, Fire/EMS, animal groups, environment groups, civic groups, the police, the food bank, local businesses, and town government. With so many volunteers willing to help, Red Lodge Area Community Foundation was able to schedule a different volunteer group to serve the food each day of the summer.

Another key attribution to this successful program was the amount of outreach and community engagement done by the steering committee. To help the program sound more inviting, the committee chose the name “Lunch in the Sun.” The Red Loge Area Community Foundation also made flyers that hung in most shop windows up and down Main Street, and chalked the side of their building each week to advertise the new menu each week. It’s hard to miss Summer Food in this town!

What makes this program most unique is the way the entire community came together to bring SFSP to Red Lodge. Everyone from the mayor to the child receiving a meal had a part in make this program a success. Rather than let the weight of this program rest on one organization the community decided to band together to ensure the children of their community are fed during the summer months. At the end of the program, they had 74 community volunteers give 113 hours to serve 515 free meals to local kids—what a great first year!

