

Summer Meals with FBSJ 2026

The Summer Meals program is returning for 2026, running for 10 weeks beginning **June 22, 2026, and ending on August 28, 2026**. You can participate the entire 10 weeks or fewer weeks if your summer programming is shorter. This program is intended to replace school breakfast and lunch during the summer when school is not in session. **Please read through all of the information below before you apply.**

Eligibility Requirements:

- Your meal distribution must be located in either Burlington, Camden, Gloucester or Salem counties.
- You must be serving/distributing meals to children (or parents) living in low income or food insecure households. You are not required to get proof of income from each household but must generally be able to demonstrate that the population you are serving need additional food support via summer meals.
 - Demonstration of need or food insecurity status can be made by
 - self-declaration by household members being served
 - percentage of households you are serving that are eligible for SNAP, TANF or WIC
 - percentage of students you are serving that are eligible for free SBP/NSLP in your school/school district
 - based on relevant statistics in the service area such as local poverty rates or lack of alternative food resources etc.
- Your summer program may not be operated at a private residence. Food cannot be delivered to a private residence, garage, shed or other non-climate-controlled location.
- You must serve a minimum of 20 children each day your program operates.
- The Summer Meal program is intended to replace school breakfast and lunch (SBP/NSLP) and is designed for children ages 4 to 17. The meals are not appropriate for younger children.
- Refrigeration is required to receive fresh meals.
- If your summer program is at a daycare,
 - Your daycare must be licensed in NJ by the Department of Children and Family Services.
 - be a 501(c)(3) organization and/or accept federal, state, and local childcare assistance, that is, not be a “private pay” only daycare
 - must not operate out of a private home
- You must be able to report the number of children served and some basic demographic information about the children you are serving each week.
- You and any staff/volunteers who will be responsible for the day-to-day receipt and distribution of meal must attend a virtual training session prior to the start of the program. (Training will take place in May and date choices will be provided well in advance to sites accepted into the program.)

Program Details:

- **Our program runs for 10 weeks, Mon-Fri, from June 22, 2026, through August 28, 2026.** You do not have to participate for the entire 10 weeks or five days per week.
- You may select either fresh meals or stable meals. If you choose shelf-stable meals, you may select **EITHER** the weekly 10 meal Distribution Box **OR** the Daily Snack Pack.
- If you are running multiple programs, or the same program at multiple locations, please submit a separate application for each program and/or location you want meals for.

- Applications for sites that are open to the public, serving larger numbers of children, serving six weeks or more and/or received by February 28th will be prioritized for acceptance.
- Our goal is to make sure we serve equitably throughout our four-county service territory, with special emphasis on areas lacking alternate food resources. Thus, participation in a prior year does not guarantee acceptance this year.

About the Meals:

The meals are for children 4 to 17 years of age and may not be appropriate for younger children. **The portion sizes are most appropriate for children under 12. If you are primarily serving older children, you may increase your meal counts to have a few extra meals on hand to give seconds to children who may need more.** You may choose to receive either fresh meals or shelf stable meals.

Fresh meals

The meal types offered are breakfast, lunch and snack.

- You may choose up to two (2) meal types for your program. That is, breakfast and lunch, lunch and snack, breakfast and snack.
- Only one menu of each meal type is prepared per day. Thus, if you choose two of the same meal type, for example lunch and lunch (to perhaps serve one as dinner), both lunch meals will be the same.
- You may serve your meals at whatever time is convenient for your program.
- To alleviate delivery pressures, fresh meals are **delivered on the weekday before serve day**. That is, on Fridays you receive meals to serve on Mondays and on Mondays you receive meals to serve on Tuesdays and so on. Therefore, refrigeration will be needed to maintain the meals overnight. However, breakfast can be held outside of refrigeration overnight.
 - You will receive a daily delivery, so at most you will need to hold 1 days' worth of meals overnight.
 - We cannot guarantee that your daily delivery will arrive in time for that day's meal service so you must hold your meals overnight to ensure you have your meals in time for your meal schedule.
- **IMPORTANT:** For your first meal day of the Summer Meals Program, you will receive double the number of meals you requested– that is, meals for the first day and the next day. This sets you up to be able to serve one set of meals and store the second set of meals for the next day.
 - For example, if your first meal day is on a Monday June 22 and you are serving 50 children lunch and snack, you will receive 100 lunches and 100 snacks to cover Monday and Tuesday's meals. Your Tuesday delivery will be 50 lunches and 50 snacks to serve on Wednesday. Your Wednesday delivery will be and 50 lunches and 50 snacks to serve on Thursday. Thursday's delivery will be for Friday and Friday's delivery will be held for the following Monday.
 - If you are not operating on Fridays, for example, you would hold Thursdays meals for Mondays. The meals delivered on Thursdays and Fridays will be designed to hold several days without compromise.
 - Both sets of meals on your first day will be the same menu **only that first day**. After your first delivery meals, the remaining deliveries will follow the weekly menu.
- **Fresh meal sites will also receive a 2-day supply of Snack Pack (see below) to keep on hand in case of a fresh meal delivery mishap or other issue which prevents you from serving your fresh meals.**

Shelf-Stable Meals

Shelf-stable meals will be offered in two ways. You may choose only one (1) option per program/location:

- **10-meal distribution box:** a box containing a variety of 5 breakfasts and 5 lunches intended to send home with parents. The box will contain "heat and serve" canned or pouched meals such as mac and cheese, ravioli, oatmeal etc., in addition to other breakfast and lunch items, and milk and juice.
 - One box is intended to serve one child per week.
 - These boxes **will not** need to be repacked for sites distributing meals to take home.
 - These meals could be served onsite (congregate) if the site is able to heat the meals.
 - This is a variety box- to serve the same meal to all children the same day, you will need to open multiple meal boxes.
 - There will be two box menus to rotate each week throughout the summer.

- Menus will be available when they are finalized with the vendor.
- If you participated in our school-year weekend pack program, these boxes are similar to those packs but contain more meals.
- **Snack pack:** an individual pack that could function as a hearty breakfast or snack; or a lite lunch. Each pack would contain items such as a cereal bar or crackers, cheese or turkey stick, fruit cup, yogurt or pudding, milk or juice.
 - These are intended to be served onsite but could be sent home.
 - We will maintain at least 5 menus for variety throughout the summer.
 - Menus will be available once they are finalized with the vendor.
 - If you participated in our school-year afternoon snack program, these packs will be similar to those.

If you want to distribute the 10-meal box as a community distribution but also have snacks or fresh meals for an on-site program, please submit separate applications for each meal type. Each application can have different operation dates and serve numbers. Shelf-stable meals are delivered in advance. You must be able to store at least one week's supply.

Reporting, Surveys and Food Safety Compliance:

Reporting your serve numbers and demographic statistics is important so we can provide our donors and grantors with the data they require. Failure to submit reporting impacts our ability to obtain future funding and can impact your ability to continue receiving meals during this Summer as well as being accepted for participation in a subsequent year.

- Reports are to be submitted weekly through an online Microsoft Form. The link will be provided to you at the beginning of the program.
- You are responsible for reporting the single day highest number of children served that week and their associated demographics such as race, ethnicity, gender and age range. For race and ethnicity, visual determination is sufficient if you do not have access to that information from parents or guardians.

Making sure food is stored and served safely is of utmost importance. Therefore, each new site (or those that have not participated with us for the last two years) will receive a pre-operational site inspection visit. During this visit we will inspect your food storage area, refrigeration (if applicable) and where the deliveries will be - which building or door etc. All sights will receive at least one site visit within your program participation dates. In addition, we may reach out to you to allow us to conduct on-site surveys to obtain feedback from parents or guardians about the meals themselves as well as if these meals are beneficial for their children or food security at home.

To apply for Summer Meals at FBSJ, please **click on the application link below** (or copy and paste it into your browser). Sites who **submit their application by February 28, 2026**, will be prioritized for acceptance. You will have an opportunity to update your application/information as we get closer to the program launch. All meal choices and serve counts need to be **finalized by May 29, 2026**. However, you may adjust your serve numbers by +/- 10% during the program operation. That is, if your initial serve number is 50 children, you can increase or decrease to serve between 45-55 children. Increases or decreases above 10% cannot be guaranteed and will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Send questions about the program or the application to Vickie Rossi at vrossi@foodbanksj.org

Application Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/RBF6f6Axr9>



The Food Bank of South Jersey offers an immediate solution to the urgent problem of hunger by providing food to people in need, teaching them to eat nutritiously, and helping them to find sustainable ways to improve their lives. **More than 93 cents from every dollar donated to FBSJ goes directly to serve individuals in South Jersey who are in danger of going hungry.**