



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

New Sponsor Application Process Overview PY 2026

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) application is a multi-step process. Organizations newly interested in the sponsorship must complete the process in the following order:

Step 1: Learn about the SFSP eligibility requirements and if applicable, submit the mandatory core documents.

- A. Review SFSP [FAQ](#) to learn more about the program.
- B. Complete and submit the SFSP [Interest Survey](#).
- C. The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) will contact the agency representative to confirm sponsor and/or site eligibility and determine if SFSP is already available in the proposed service area. SFSP participation as a program site rather than a sponsor may be decided at this time.

SFSP application requirements depend on a specific sponsor type. Per federal regulations, new non-school sponsors and private non-profit agencies must meet additional criteria to qualify for SFSP sponsorship. Private non-profit agencies must first submit a set of core documents that will be reviewed by the State agency **prior** to being able to access the program application in the Child Nutrition Programs web portal (CNPweb). In addition, any potential applicant agency must be determined to be in "good standing" with no past due balance or unresolved issues related to CNP participation, including prior termination.

Private non-profit agencies, except for private schools currently operating School Nutrition Programs (SNP) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) sponsors, must complete the following application requirements listed below:

- Submit a copy of the IRS 501(c)3 document. This is also required for residential camp sponsors. Churches may submit a state tax-exempt certificate.
- Provide proof of the organization's status with the Indiana Secretary of State [Office](#). The applicant organization must be in "active" status to apply for SFSP sponsorship.
- Submit agency's Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number. This number is used as the primary means of agency identification for federal awards. The number will be first issued by Federal Government in [SAM.gov](#). Organizations that already have a UEI number, will be able to [view](#) or [renew](#) it, if needed.
- Provide proof of agency's financial and administrative viability by submitting at a minimum: (1) SFSP Financial Viability and Sponsor Management Plan, (2) Profit/Loss Statement for a previous fiscal year and (3) Bank statements for a minimum of 12 prior operating months.

These core documents must be submitted in one email to summermeals@doe.in.gov. Next, the documentation will be reviewed by State agency for financial and administrative readiness.

Access to the electronic SFSP application at the CNPweb is granted only after a satisfactory completion of Step 1.



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Only after successfully completing **Step 1**, an organization will be contacted by a SFSP Program Specialist, to help a new agency to navigate the application process at the CNPweb. In addition, an SFSP Field Specialist will schedule a pre-approval visit at a sponsor facility prior to the application approval at CNPweb.

Step 2: Complete the electronic SFSP Application at CNPweb.

At the minimum, the SFSP application includes the following digital forms at the CNPweb:

- Sponsor Information Sheet
- Site Information Sheet(s) for each site
- Program Budget

Per USDA guidance, current SNP and CACFP sponsors follow a more streamlined process.

Step 3: Complete and upload all the additional required forms into CNPweb.

Depending on a type of sponsor operations, several additional documents will be required. Additional application documents include but are not limited to: Sponsor Agreement, a Notification to the local Health Department, annual Procurement Compliance Form and a Program Announcement.

The timeframe for approval will be within 30 days of the submission of all the required paperwork if the documentation is complete and finalized correctly and there are no additional questions or concerns.

New sponsor application deadline is **April 30, 2026**. Program operations may not start until the application has been approved at CNPweb. Agencies may monitor their application status online and will receive a special email communication upon approval.