

During the long, hot days of summer, summer learning programs not only keep kids safe and engaged in academically enriching activities to help stem the “summer slide”—the loss of academic skills that happens during the summer months, especially among economically disadvantaged students, they are helping working parents make sure that their kids are getting healthy meals and snacks while school's out of session.

Afterschool Alliance's survey of more than 200 afterschool and summer learning programs finds that **86% serve either breakfast, lunch, supper or a snack to their kids during the summer months.** In a time of economic hardship, close to 3 in 4 programs serve more than just a snack, and more than half of summer learning programs feed students both breakfast and lunch. Critical to these programs' ability to serve nutritious snacks and meals is the USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP),* which provides funding for at least one healthy meal at no cost to sites in low-income areas where at least 50% of children are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.



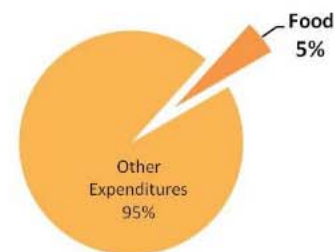
- Summer learning programs participating in SFSP serve high-needs children who often rely on the snacks and meals these programs serve to keep from going hungry: **Close to 2 in 3 programs said that more than 75% of the children in the schools they serve qualify for the free or reduced price lunch program.**

- However, there are still a significant number of programs serving high-needs children who do not participate in SFSP: **1 out of 2 programs not participating in SFSP report that more than 75% of children in the schools their program serves qualify for the free or reduced price lunch program.**

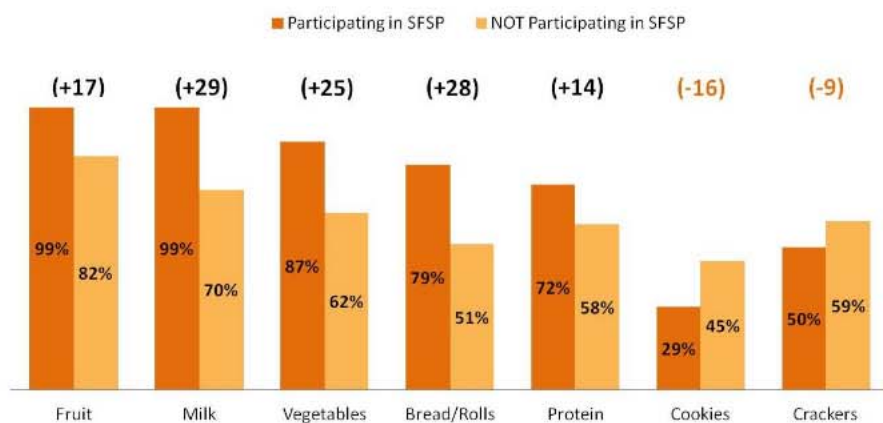
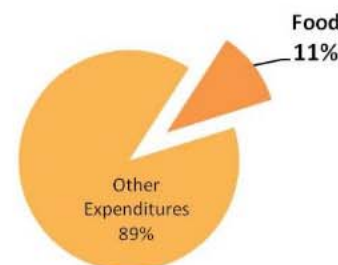
- Participation in SFSP helps considerably with food costs. On average, participating programs spent half of what non-participating programs spent on food—5% of their budget vs. 11% of non-SFSP participating programs.

- Summer learning programs that participate in SFSP **provide healthier meals and snacks** to students than programs not participating in SFSP.*

SFSP Participating Programs



Non-SFSP Participating Programs

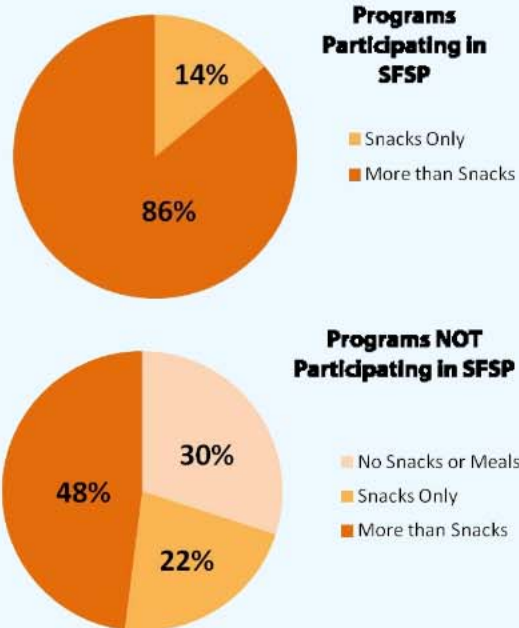


Challenges Programs Face Providing a Summer Meal

	Cost	Food Storage	Staffing	Paperwork	Student Preference
Programs Participating in SFSP	20%	31%	26%	33%	34%
Programs NOT Participating in SFSP	68%	52%	47%	29%	21%

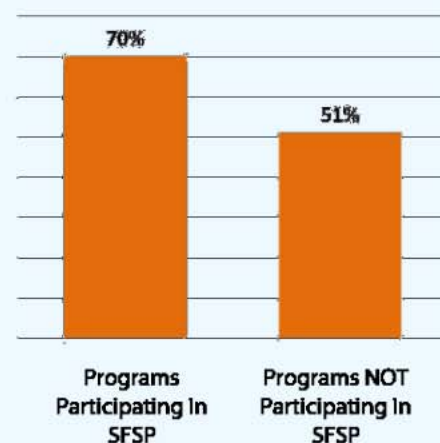
- **1 in 5** non-participating SFSP summer learning programs plan to apply for SFSP or ask their district to apply to be a SFSP sponsor.

Programs participating in SFSP are much more likely to serve breakfast, lunch or meals at their program, in addition to snacks.



Summer learning programs that participate in SFSP are much more likely to participate in the Afterschool Meal and/or Snack Program during the school year than programs that do not participate in SFSP.

Participating in the Afterschool Meal and/or Snack Program



- Partnerships with school nutrition programs or food banks help summer learning programs serve snacks or meals at little or no cost. **63% of programs obtained snacks or meals at no cost** through school nutrition programs or food banks.
- Approximately **9 in 10 afterschool programs have heard of SFSP**, but of those programs, more than one-third either don't participate or have participated, but no longer do so.



**In addition to providing funding for meals at sites where at least 50% of the children in the area are eligible for free or reduced price lunch, the Summer Food Service Program also provides funding to sites where at least 50% of the children enrolled in the program qualify for free or reduced price lunch and sites that primarily serve migrant children. Summer Food Service Program funding must be used to serve meals that meet federal nutritional guidelines. To learn more about the Summer Food Service Program, visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Summer/Sponsor.htm>.*

All findings are based on 228 afterschool programs responding to an online survey conducted by the Afterschool Alliance April 16-30, 2013.

The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children have access to affordable, quality before-school, afterschool, and summer programs. The nation's leading voice for afterschool, the Afterschool Alliance is the only organization dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of afterschool programs and advocating for more afterschool investments.