

Nutrition Assistance Programs

The Food Stamp Program (FSP)

The Food Stamp Program serves as the first line of defense against hunger. It enables low-income families to buy nutritious food with coupons and Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards. Food stamp recipients spend their benefits to buy eligible food in authorized retail food stores.

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/>

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

A highly effective program that safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, & children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care.

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/>

National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

The NSLP is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day.

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/lunch/>

School Breakfast Program (SBP)

The SBP provides cash assistance to States to operate nonprofit breakfast programs in schools and residential childcare institutions. The program operates in more than 72,000 schools and institutions, serving a daily average of some 7.4 million children.

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/breakfast/>

Special Milk Program (SMP)

The Special Milk Program (SMP) provides milk to children in schools and childcare institutions who do not participate in other Federal meal service programs. The program reimburses schools for the milk they serve.

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/milk/>

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

The SFSP ensures that children 18 years of age and younger in lower-income areas continue to receive nutritious meals during long school vacations, when they do not have access to school lunch or breakfast.

<http://www.cfpa.net/Summerfood/SummerfoodProgram.htm>

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Provides children in day care or after school programs with healthy meals. The program also provides functionally impaired adults in day care with nutritious meals.

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Care/CACFP/cacphome.htm>

Direct Certification

Direct Certification is an optional, alternative method of certifying children who receive Food Stamps, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids Program (CalWORKs), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) to also receive free school meal or milk.

http://www.cfpa.net/School_Food/DirectCert/directcert.html