



## Summer Food Target Mapper Guide

The Summer Food Target Mapper identifies areas that qualify as Summer Food or Seamless Summer sites through Census data. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option (available to schools through the National School Lunch Program) provide nutritious meals to children at sites throughout local communities. One way to qualify a site to participate is to show that 50 percent or more of the children in the area are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. School data is used most often to document that a site is in a low-income area, but Census data also can be used. Census data is especially useful for qualifying sites in rural areas or where pockets of poverty exist within affluent areas. This interactive map, developed by FairData, an organization that develops community-based mapping and data solutions for education, environment, housing, and poverty-related issues, in association with the Food Research and Action Center also allows you to explore other demographics including median income, race, English as a Second Language, and housing information.

### To determine the eligibility of a site for SFSP:

1. Go to the map at: <http://216.55.168.186/FairData/SummerFood/map.asp>.
2. Click on the FIND button on the top left hand side of the screen.
3. Enter the address of the proposed site in the pop-up window. Then click on the FIND button in the pop-up window below the address. If the address is not found, use the ZOOM tools and PAN tool to locate the site.
4. The Mapper will show the address on the map with a star and will show site eligibility by color.
  - ELIGIBLE SITES are in dark or light green areas. The dark green areas are eligible Census blocks, which always have been used to qualify sites. The light green areas are newly eligible based on USDA's recent guidance that allows sites to qualify through Census tract data in addition to blocks.
  - NOT ELIGIBLE SITES are in pink areas. These sites may be eligible according to school data, but they do not meet the requirements for qualifying through Census data.
  - MAYBE SITES are in light blue areas. Between 40 and 49 percent of the children in the light blue Census blocks are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. USDA's recent guidance allows these blocks to qualify if adjacent block groups (a maximum of three) averaged together have 50 percent or more of the children eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. State child nutrition agencies are responsible for conducting the averaging and determining eligibility.
5. The INFO button provides additional information about the area. First, click on the INFO button and then on the star (specific Census block). A box with additional information will pop up. The first two things in the blocks are the Census block and tract numbers. It also will give you the percent of children between 0 and 18 who are eligible and 0-13. Summer sites can qualify using either percentage and that is reflected in the maps.

6. The Census block group number often is required by the state agency to qualify the site. If your state requires this, it can be pulled from the data shown through the INFO button. It also can be shown on the map by going to the drop down bar under COMPARE MAPS and click on GEOID\_LABELS\_ZOOM.

Click on the HELP button for additional instructions on how to use the map or go to:

<http://www.fairdata2000.com/FairPlanHelp/Help.htm>

**Note:** Prior to using the website, discuss with the state child nutrition agency what kind of documentation it will need to qualify the site for SFSP. The state agency is responsible for verifying that a site is eligible based on Census data before approving it as a summer food or Seamless Summer site. Sponsors must receive state approval for the site prior to the start of its meal service.

*For more information or questions about the Summer Food Target Mapper, contact Signe Anderson, [sanderson@frac.org](mailto:sanderson@frac.org) or Clarissa Hayes, [chayes@frac.org](mailto:chayes@frac.org).*