



TO: Clerk of the Legislature
FROM: Dr. Brian L. Maher, Commissioner of Education
SUBJECT: Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Expansion Grant
DATE: January 13, 2026

Dear Senator Murman and Members of the Education Committee,

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federally funded initiative designed to ensure that children and teens have access to nutritious meals during the summer months when school is not in session. Administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the program addresses food insecurity by providing free, healthy meals to eligible participants in communities nationwide.

On April 11th, 2012, Governor Heineman signed LB 1090, a bill introduced by Senator Wallman, which established a grant program for sponsors of the SFSP to aid in expanding and creating SFSP sites in Nebraska. LB 1090, now codified at Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-10,140 through 79-10,142, provides for the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) to award grants to sponsors for nonrecurring expenses incurred in initiating or expanding services under the SFSP. Annual grants of up to \$15,000 are to be awarded on a competitive basis up to a total of \$90,000 per fiscal year.

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-10,142, NDE is reporting the following activity related to the Nebraska SFSP. During the summer of 2025, three Nebraska SFSP sponsors were awarded funds through the SFSP expansion grant totaling \$20,235. These grant funds impacted 714 children in those rural communities. Projects included (1) commercial highchairs to support meal service for younger children at the SFSP site in Kimball, (2) heated proofing cabinets and coolers to support high-quality and nutritious meals at the SFSP site in West Point, and (3) outreach supplies, a commercial fruit sectionizer, and several pieces of meal delivery equipment purchased to support reaching and serving more meals to community children at the SFSP site in Superior.

Should you have any questions about the contents of this report, please reach out to Kayte Partch, Child Nutrition Programs Director and Assistant Administrator at kaytepartch@nebraska.gov and Lane Carr, Administrator for the Office of Policy and Strategic Initiatives at lane.carr@nebraska.gov.

Sincerely,

Brian L. Maher, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Expansion Grant

I. Introduction

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-10,142, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) is required to submit a report related to the SFSP by December 1 each year.

II. Background

On April 11th, 2012, Governor Heineman signed LB 1090, a bill introduced by Senator Wallman, which established a grant program for sponsors of the SFSP to aid in expanding and creating SFSP sites in Nebraska. LB 1090, which is codified in Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-10,140 through 79-10,142, provides for the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) to award grants to sponsors for nonrecurring expenses incurred in initiating or expanding services under the SFSP. Annual grants of up to \$15,000 are to be awarded on a competitive basis up to a total of \$90,000 per fiscal year.

III. Data (*or Results*)

Sponsor	Children Impacted	Approved Expense	Approved Amount
Kimball Public School	69	Highchairs (3)	\$185.00
West Point Public School	468	Heated cabinets (3); Coolers (4) for mobile meals	\$14,325.00
Superior Public Schools	177	Sectionizer and blade; foodservice storage drawers, storage boxes, rack, and cabinet; program marketing & outreach materials and staff time	\$5,725.00

Data from: 2025 federal fiscal year (October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025).

IV. Summary

During the summer of 2025 three Nebraska SFSP sponsors were awarded funds through the SFSP expansion grant totaling \$20,235. These grant funds impacted 714 children in those rural communities. Projects included (1) commercial highchairs for younger children in Kimball, (2) heated proofing cabinets and coolers in West Point, and (3) outreach supplies, a commercial fruit sectionizer, and several pieces of meal delivery equipment in Superior.

V. Conclusions or Recommendations

The SFSP expansion grant continues to support the overall goal of helping communities across Nebraska ensure food security during the summer months when school is not in session.