



Increasing Access to Food and Nutrition for Migrant Children

**Select Federal Food Programs
for the Children of Migrant Farmworkers**

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Migrant Legal Action Program

"A better future for migrant farmworkers and their families"

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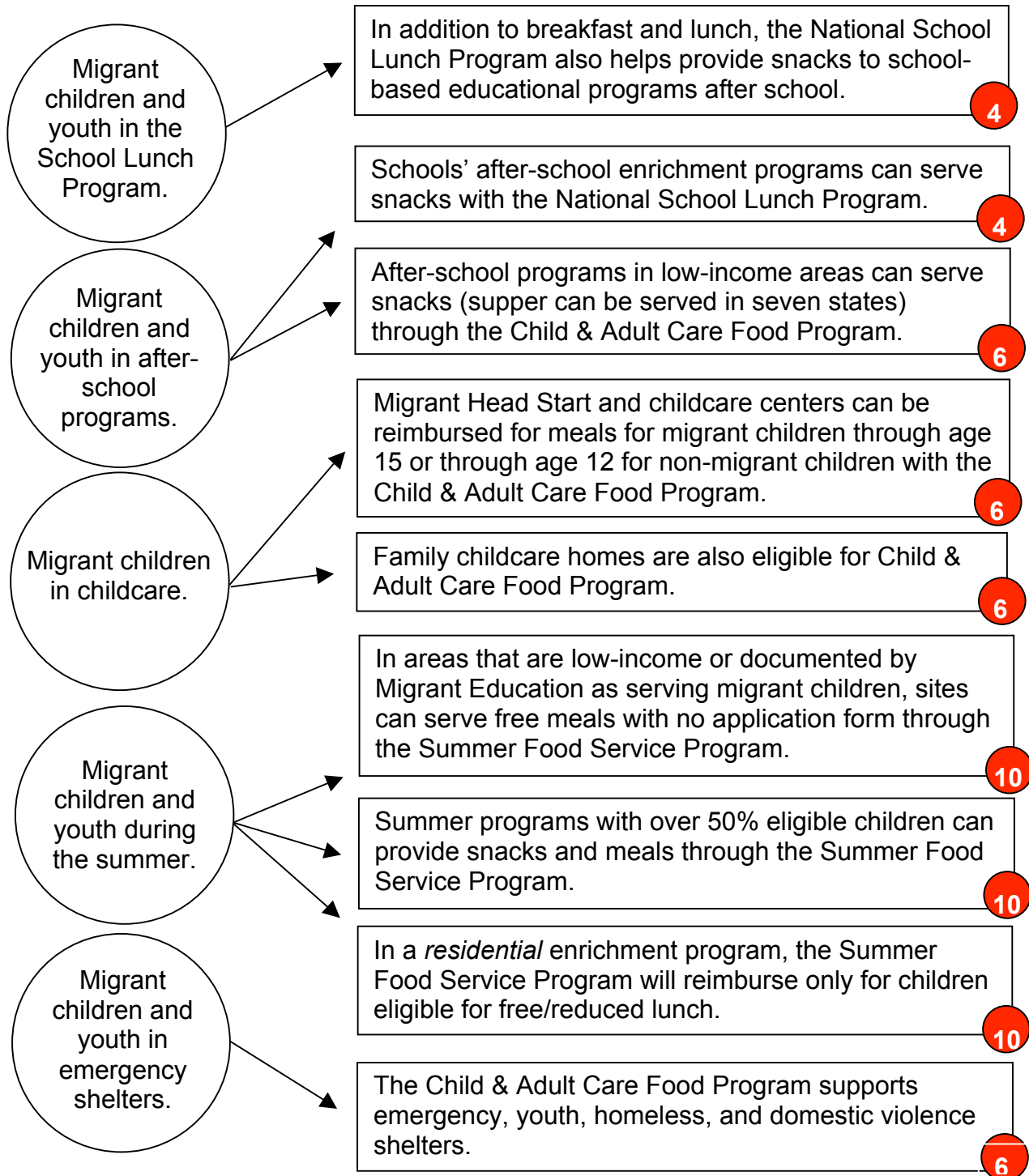
Overview

The children of migrant farmworkers face among the highest rates of poverty, hunger, and food insecurity in the U.S. Federal food programs have special rules to make it easier for migrant children to access healthy breakfasts, lunches, and snacks in schools, Head Start centers, summer programs, childcare centers, and after-school programs.

This roadmap is about some of the lesser-known provisions of the federal food programs. We focus on the Summer Food Service Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the after-school snack part of the National School Lunch Program. The National School Lunch Program has many special provisions for migrant students. Because that information is widely known, it is not included here.


Roadmap to Federal Food Programs for Migrant Children

What type of information are you seeking?



Federal Food Programs for Migrant Children

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP)



Snacks,
breakfast, and
lunch for Migrant
children and
youth at school.

What is the National School Lunch Program?

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) helps keep children healthy by providing nutritious breakfasts, lunches, and snacks to children in U.S. schools.

How does the program work?

School food authorities prepare food within USDA guidelines for lunch, breakfast, and snacks. The NSLP only operates on school days. Once students are signed up for free or reduced lunches, they are eligible for all parts of the program with no further paperwork. Because the program is an entitlement program, there is always federal funding for every eligible child. Although the local school food service department administers the program, the snacks can be served on or off campus.

What's the NSLP's snack option?

Schools and school-run programs can be reimbursed for snacks served to children through age 18 in after-school programs. If the program is located in an area with 50%+ eligibility for free or reduced lunch, all snacks are reimbursed at the highest rate. In areas with less than 50% eligibility for free or reduced lunch, the reimbursement rate is based on students' eligibility for free, reduced, or full priced meals.

Key Resources

U.S. Department of Agriculture Web Site:
www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Lunch

Food Research & Action Center (FRAC):
www.frac.org/html/federal_food_programs/programs/nslp.html

National School Lunch Program After School Roadmap

Migrant children and youth in after-school programs



Does your school operate in an area where at least one local school has more than 50% eligibility for free or reduced lunches?

Yes.

The National School Lunch Program reimburses for snacks served to children. A school's food service department administers the program. In low-income areas, all snacks are reimbursed at the maximum rate.

No.

The National School Lunch Program reimburses for snacks served to children based on the income eligibility of the child. A school's food service department administers the program. Snacks are reimbursed based on the free and reduced lunch eligibility of each child.

The **Child and Adult Care Food Program** allows school or community-run programs to provide snacks to children. See page 6.

Federal Food Programs for Migrant Children

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Migrant children and youth in after-school programs.

Migrant children in childcare.

Migrant children and youth in residential emergency shelters.

What is the Child and Adult Care Food Program?

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) reimburses for snacks and meals served to children at childcare centers (for example, Head Start centers), childcare homes, and adult-care centers. The program also reimburses for snacks served to children after school during the regular school year in areas where more than half of the students are eligible for free or reduced lunch in any local school. (These after-school programs can also serve supper in seven states.) Emergency residential shelters are also eligible; these include youth shelters, domestic violence shelters, and homeless shelters.

How does the program work?

The program provides a per-meal reimbursement for meals and snacks served. The rate depends on the location of the site and, in some cases, the income of each participating child. The program is administered by a state agency. Family childcare homes participate in CACFP through a community organization (a “sponsor”) that deals directly with the state agency. CACFP is a federally funded entitlement program, so there is always funding available for every eligible child.

What’s special for migrant children?

Special rules allow for older migrant children to be served in childcare centers and homes. Migrant children through age 15 can be served, but for non-migrant children only those through age 12 can be served in childcare. In after-school programs and in emergency shelters, all children and youth can be served through age 18.

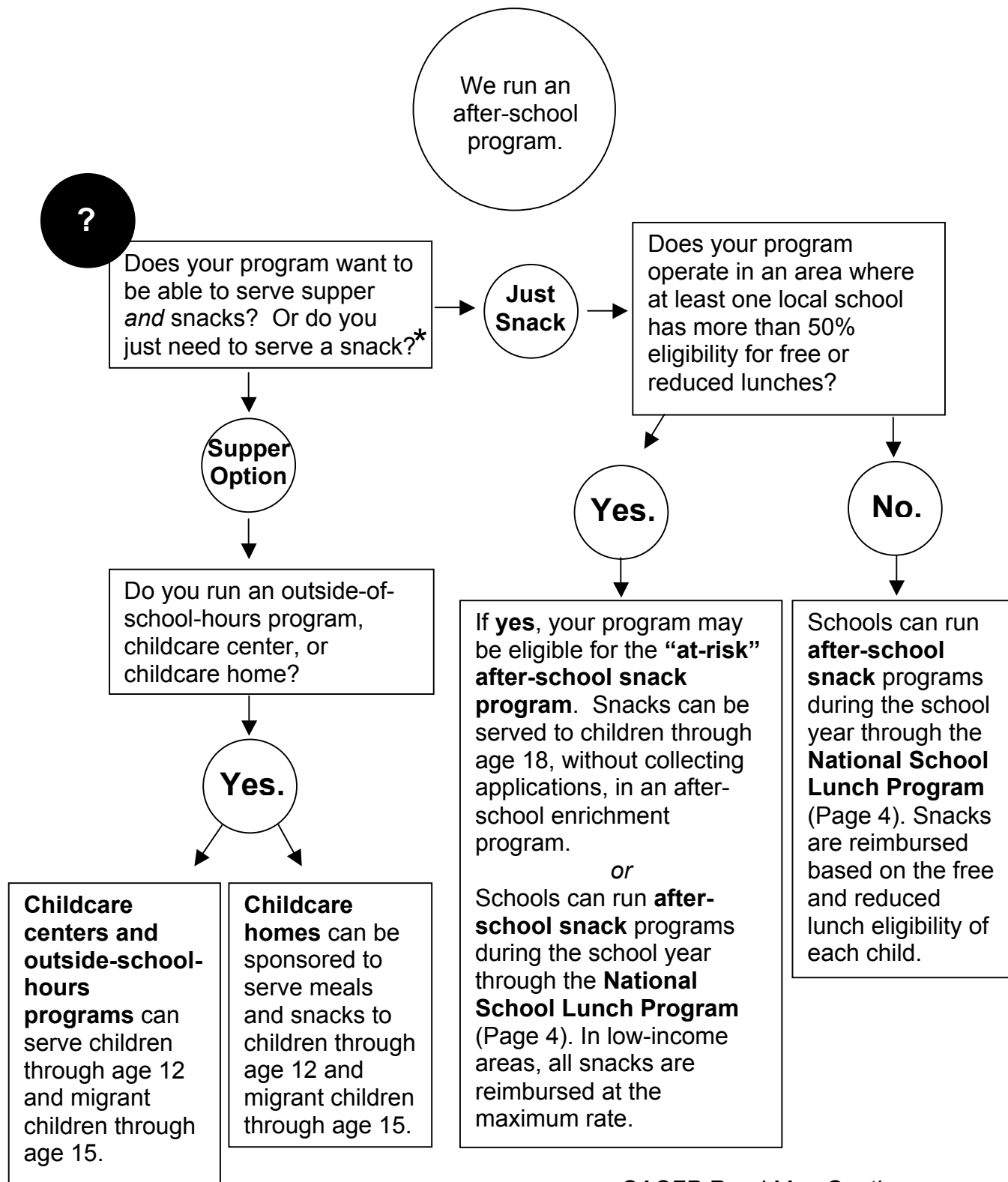
Key Resources

U.S. Department of Agriculture Web Site:
www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/care/

State Contacts:
www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Contacts/StateDirectory.htm

Food Research & Action Center:
www.frac.org/html/federal_food_programs/programs/cacfp.html

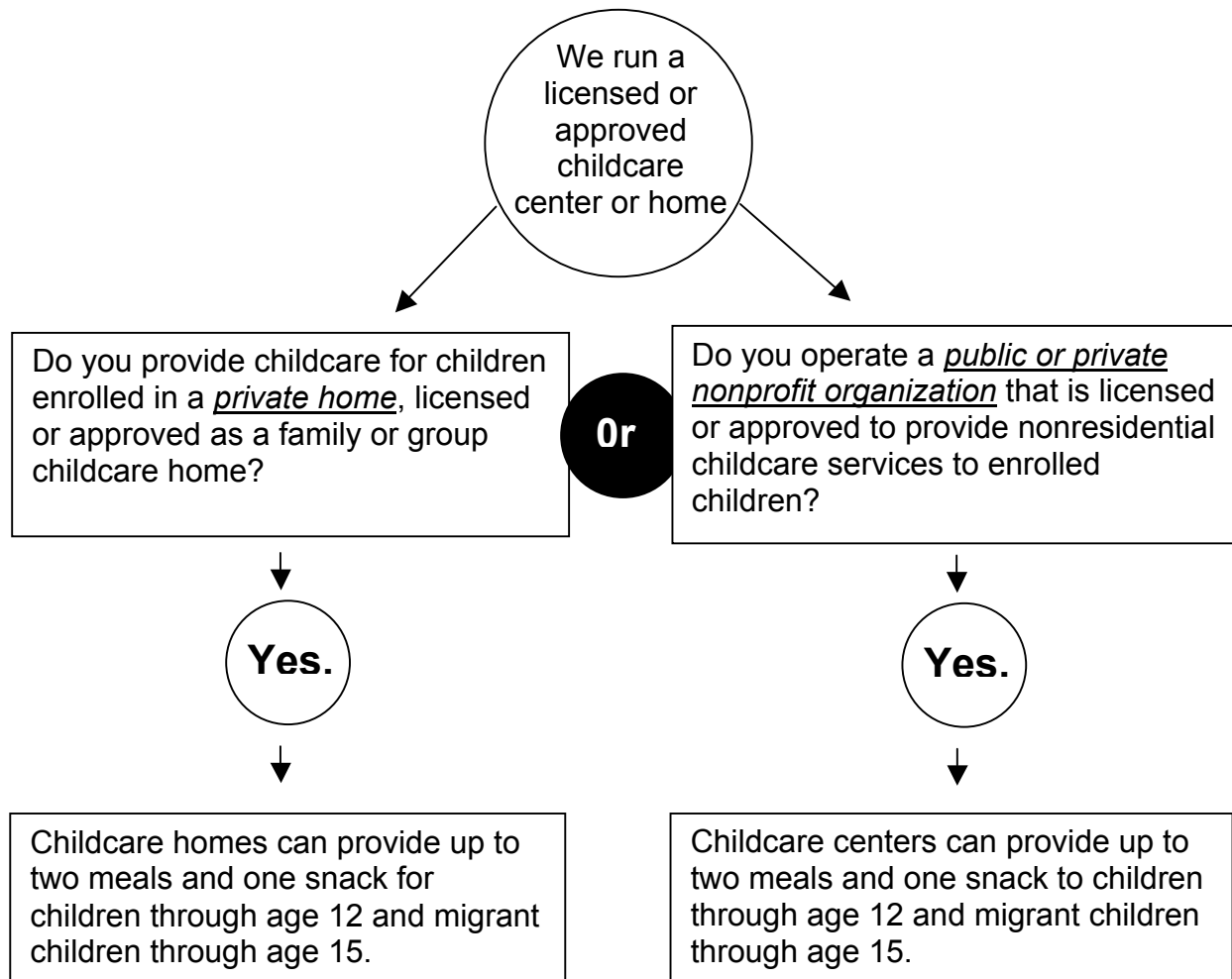
Child and Adult Care Food Program Roadmap



*Seven states (DE, IL, MI, MO, NY, OR, and PA) are in a pilot program to serve suppers in the **at-risk after school snack program** of CACFP.

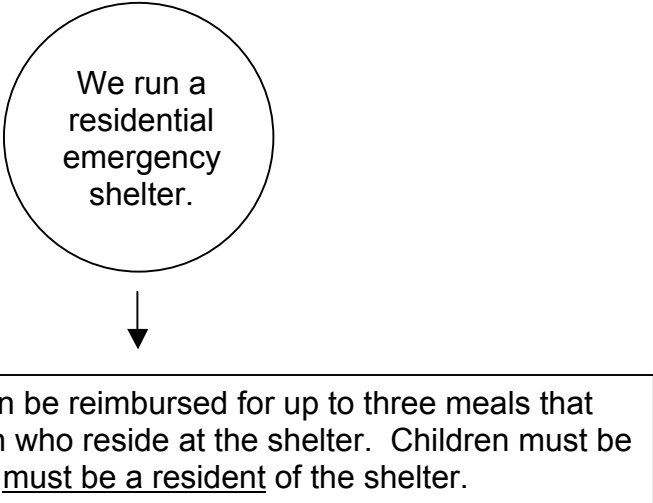
CACFP Road Map Continues...

CACFP Program Road Map, Childcare Centers and Homes



CACFP Road Map Continues...

CACFP Program Road Map, Emergency Shelters



We run a residential emergency shelter.

Emergency shelters can be reimbursed for up to three meals that are provided to children who reside at the shelter. Children must be age 18 or younger and must be a resident of the shelter.

Federal Food Programs for Migrant Children

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)



What is the Summer Food Service Program?

Summer food programs serve to extend the nutrition safety net that the National School Lunch Program provides during the school year. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) reimburses for snacks and meals served to children during the summer months. Children who live in a low-income area or children in eligible summer programs can be provided free meals without an application form.

How does the program work?

The program works by reimbursing a per-meal rate to sponsors for each meal and snack served. The SFSP has three different types of programs: open sites, enrolled sites, and summer camps. The program is administered by a state agency but paid for through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Twenty-six states currently have simplified accounting rules for the program through the Simplified Summer Food Service Program. SFSP is an entitlement program; there is always federal funding for every eligible child.

What's special for migrant children?

Sites that serve migrant children can serve more meals. Also, migrant organizations, such as Migrant Education Programs, can document a site serving primarily migrant children as an "area of poor economic conditions" (because migrant families generally have unstable sources of income). Sites documented as having poor economic conditions can be open to all children and do *not* have to collect application forms.

Key Resources

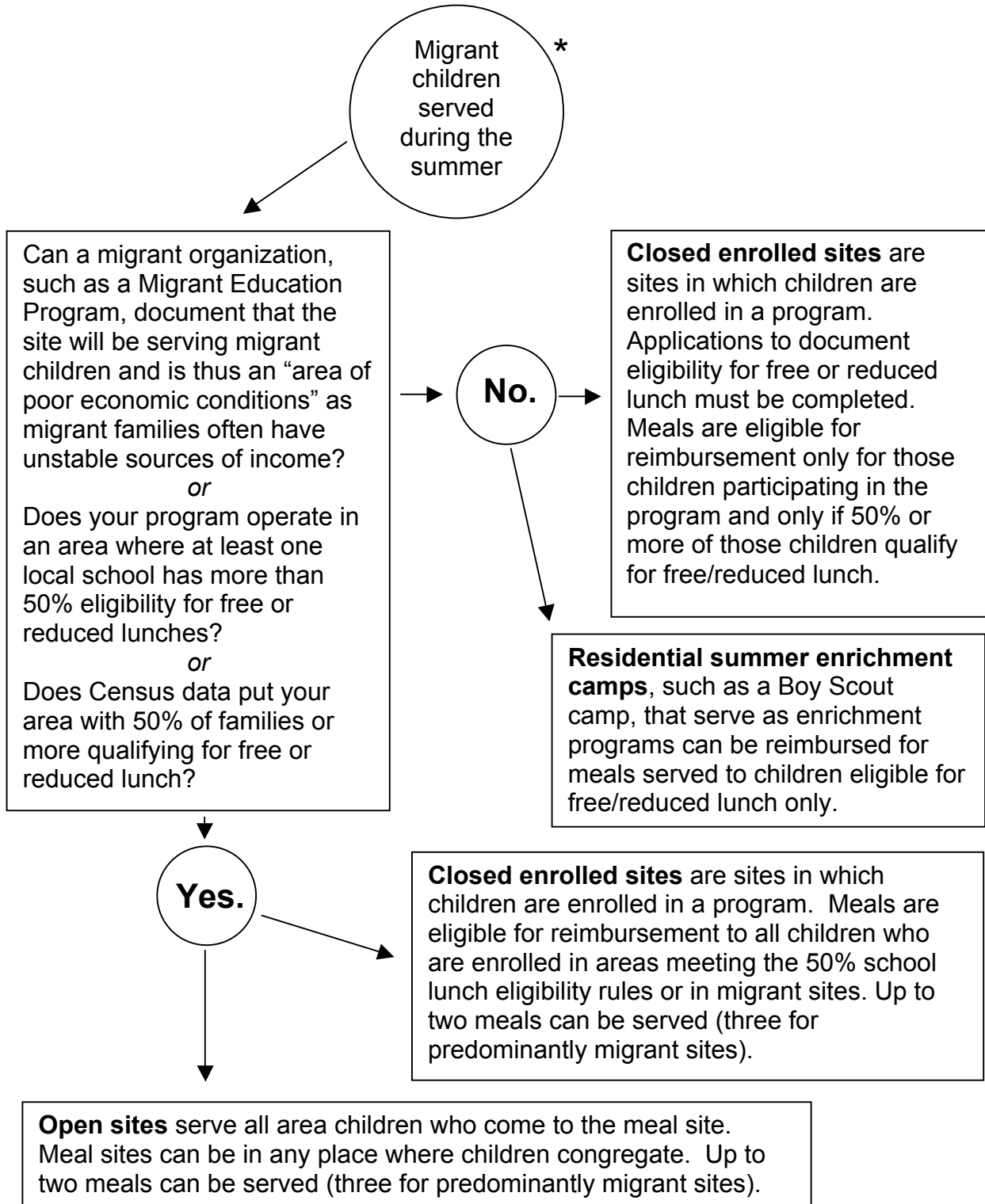
U.S. Department of Agriculture Web Site:
www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Summer/

State Contacts:
www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Contacts/StateDirectory.htm

Food Research & Action Center (FRAC):
www.frac.org/html/federal_food_programs/programs/sfsp.html

Food Safety Resources for Summer Food Service Programs
www.nfsmi.org/Information/summerfs.html

Summer Food Service Program Roadmap



* The Seamless Summer Option allows school-run programs to use the National School Lunch Program during the summer with less paperwork but a lower reimbursement rate. Programs may be off campus. The eligibility requirements for children are the same as for the Summer Food Service Program.

Action Steps for Migrant Educators!

1

Find out if the local programs you are currently funding serve snacks and/or meals through the federal child nutrition programs.

- Informally, survey local districts/programs to determine if they are participating in the child nutrition programs. Ask them which ones they are using (National School Lunch Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program and/or the Summer Food Service Program) and how many snacks and meals they serve through each.
- If they are not currently participating, ask them what barriers are preventing them from doing so.

2

Contact your state child nutrition agency and discuss your interest in increasing the number of migrant programs using the federal child nutrition programs.

- Explain that you are interested in making sure that all eligible migrant programs participate in the child nutrition programs and receive the maximum number of snacks and meals allowable.
- Ask the child nutrition agency what efforts it is making to increase the number of children participating in the program.
- Ask if there are ways the state migrant education office can get involved to support their efforts.

3

Invite the state child nutrition agency to the trainings you hold for your program.

- Ask the child nutrition agency to explain to your local programs how the federal nutrition programs operate, the entitlement funding available to them, and the benefits of the program for the children and families they serve.
- As the state migrant education director, encourage your local programs to participate in the federal child nutrition programs.
- If one of your local programs is already successfully using one of the federal nutrition programs, ask the staff to make a brief presentation to the group about their positive experience and the impact it has had on their program and the children served by the program.

4

Distribute materials to your local programs at trainings and throughout the year about the federal child nutrition programs and the opportunities that exist for them to serve breakfast, lunch, supper and/or a snack to the children in their program.

- Offer to connect migrant programs that are interested in using the nutrition program with those already participating, as an informal mentoring network.

Note: Encourage your programs to participate in both the after-school and summer nutrition programs to ensure that children have access to healthy meals all year. Note that local districts must reapply to these federal programs annually.