



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health Women's & Children's Health Section
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Michael F. Easley, Governor

Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

April 16, 2002

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Potential Sponsors

FROM: Arnette Cowan, MS, RD, LDN
Head Special Nutrition Programs

SUBJECT: Summer Food Service Program

To complement your educational and recreational goals, the Summer Food Service Program, operated under the auspices of the United States Department of Agriculture, is available to qualifying organizations such as those participating in the U.S. Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Center Program.

The Special Nutrition Program Unit of the Division of Public Health (DPI), North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), would like to invite you to consider getting involved in this national effort to ensure healthy nutrition.

The Summer Food Service Program provides federal funds for wholesome meals benefiting children from birth to age 18. Most often, the meals are provided through community centers, schools, parks, and other organized settings for children.

In communities that operate year-round schools, the SFSP can allow you to provide meals during the periodic breaks when school is not in session.

Under the National School Lunch Program, there is an additional benefit for organizations that are not currently participating in SFSP. School districts may receive reimbursement through the National School Lunch Program for snacks served to children through age 18. The reimbursement is available only for those children who participate in programs organized to provide after school care, which includes education and enrichment activities.

If a program is operated in the attendance area of a school in which at least 50 percent of the enrolled children are eligible for free and reduced price meals, all snacks or summer meals are served without charge and reimbursed at the free rate. These schools do not have to document eligibility for free or reduced price meals or count and claim meals according to their reimbursement category.



Schools operating these programs in areas declared non-needy are also eligible to participate in the summer food or snack program. In the Summer Food Service Program, at least half of the children served must be eligible for free or reduced price meals.

All SFSP meals are then reimbursed at the free rate. In after school care programs in areas with less demonstrated need, snacks are reimbursed at the free, reduced price, or paid at a rate depending on each child's eligibility for meals.

Both programs described can be an important resource to support your educational goals. These programs help ensure that children get nutritious food and are fully engaged throughout the day. Additionally, it is a way to attract children to your educational or recreational program.

To learn more about how to participate in the SFSP program, please contact SFSP coordinator, Juannice Williams Enoch, at 919-715-1924.

Sincerely,

Arnette Cowan, Program Supervisor
Special Nutrition Unit
Division of Public Health

cc: SNP staff
Auditors