Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) – WIC and Food Stamp Programs State Contacts

State Agency Directors – Colorado ED, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri DH, Montana OPI, (Special Nutrition Programs) Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

As you are aware, the WIC and Food Stamp Programs and the SFSP are partnering in their efforts to provide outreach material for the SFSP.

The State Directors for both the WIC and Food Stamp Programs have been notified that you may be contacting them to help distribute outreach material. Copies of the letters that were sent are attached for your information.

Also attached are contact lists for the State Directors of each of the two Programs. We recommend you make these contacts as early as possible, so any necessary preparations for distribution can be made.

If you have any questions, please contact Christy Kennedy at (303) 844-0359.

BRIAN ALLISON
Acting Regional Director
Special Nutrition Programs

Attachment

cc: Ralph E. Anzur, WIC Director
    Allen Nickels, FSP Director
WIC/Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Outreach

All WIC Geographic State Agencies:

This is to expand on our announcement at the Director’s Meeting in Omaha that WIC and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) are partnering in efforts to provide outreach material for the SFSP.

Each summer, over 12 million American children from low-income families do without the lunches they eat every day at school. During the school year, the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) serves just over 18 million free or reduced price lunches a day. During the summer, the number of lunches served to low-income children in the SFSP is just over 2 million each day. The number of lunches served to low-income children through the NSLP during the summer is just over 1 million. This is only about 12 percent of the free and reduced price lunches served on a given day during the regular school year.

This summertime “nutrition gap” is much more serious than just missing a meal. Research by Harvard University and other institutions shows there’s a direct link between eating a nutritious diet and the degree of mental alertness and intellectual development of children.

In an effort to promote participation in the SFSP, the State SFSP Director may be contacting you to ask for your assistance in distributing outreach material and to answer any questions you may have about the Program. The State SFSP Director may also ask for local contacts in the areas where the SFSP sites will operate. Information about the SFSP would then be provided
to appropriate local WIC clinics for distribution to clients. This outreach distribution will take place in late spring and early summer.

For your reference, attached is a listing of the State SFSP Directors who may contact you.

Thank you for your willingness to support this effort.

RALPH E. ANZUR
Regional Director
Supplemental Nutrition Programs

Attachment

cc: Brian Allison, Acting Regional Director, Special Nutrition Programs (SNP)
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Janet Schalansky  
Secretary  
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Dear Ms. Schalansky:

The Food Stamp Program and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) are partnering in their efforts to provide outreach material for the SFSP.

Every summer, over 12 million American children from low-income families do without the lunches they normally would eat every day at school. During the school year, the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) serves just over 18 million free or reduced price lunches a day. During the summer, the number of lunches served to low-income children in the SFSP is just over 2 million each day. The number of lunches served to low-income children through the NSLP during the summer is just over 1 million. This is only about 12 percent of the free and reduced price lunches served on a given day during the regular school year.

This summertime “nutrition gap” is much more serious than just missing a meal or going hungry. Research by Harvard University and other institutions shows there is a direct link between eating a nutritious diet and the degree of mental alertness and intellectual development of children.

On a national level, Eric Bost, the Under Secretary for the Food and Nutrition Service encourages hundreds of groups to sponsor the SFSP and inform people about its benefits.

In an effort to do this, the State SFSP Director may be contacting you to ask for your assistance in distributing outreach material and to answer any questions you may have about the Program. The State SFSP Director may also ask for local contacts in the areas where the SFSP sites will operate. Information about the SFSP will be provided to local food stamp offices for distribution to clients. The outreach distribution will take place in late spring and early summer, so the children and parents can plan to participate in this Program.

For your convenience, we are enclosing a listing of the State SFSP Directors in the Mountain Plains Region.

I sincerely hope we can work together to make certain the SFSP is available to children in need.
Janet Schalansky

We are committed to ensuring no child is left behind, and this means caring for our children throughout the entire year, whether school is in session or not. To make this commitment a reality, we all need to work together.

Thank you for your assistance with this effort.

Sincerely,

ALLAN C. NICKELS
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program

Enclosure

cc: JSNP SFSP State Directors
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