



For Immediate Release:

March 10, 2015

Contact: Kelly Donnelly 860.713.6525

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER MEAL SPONSORS

Sponsoring Organizations Help Provide Nutritious Meals to Tens of Thousands of Children

(HARTFORD, CT) – The Connecticut State Department of Education is now accepting applications for the 2015 Summer Food Service Program. This summer, approximately 45,000 Connecticut children will be able to receive free meals through the 2015 federal program, but qualified local sponsoring organizations must be found.

Last year, more than 43,647 eligible children were served at 600 locations statewide through 61 locally sponsored programs. If children are to receive nutritious meals during the summer break, the assistance of local organizations is critical.

The Summer Food Service Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and serves as the summer extension of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, which provide meals for students during the school year. Local Summer Food Service Program activities are coordinated by each state's department of education.

Local Summer Food Service Program sponsors may include public or private nonprofit school food authorities; state, local, municipal or county governments; residential public or private nonprofit summer camps; public or private nonprofit colleges or universities participating in the National Youth Sports Program; and private nonprofit organizations. Any one of these groups or organizations that are able to verify that at least half the children in their potential service area qualify for free or reduced-price school meals may apply to be a sponsor. A child's eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals or free summer meals is based on the income of his or her parent(s).

The Connecticut State Department of Education has identified several communities with neighborhoods eligible to host a Summer Food Service Program site. Eligible neighborhoods are those where at least 50 percent or more of the family income levels in the area are at or below 185 percent of the poverty guidelines. Eligible organizations in these municipalities are encouraged to apply: Bristol, East Windsor, Enfield, Essex, Griswold, Hamden, Montville, North Branford, Redding, Sterling, Seymour, and Old Saybrook.

All sponsors must agree to serve meals to any eligible child regardless of his or her race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Summer Food Service Program sponsors are reimbursed for each meal served, according to predetermined U.S. Department of Agriculture reimbursement rates.

Summer Food Service Program applications and further information are available through the State Department of Education's Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457-1543. Additional information may also be obtained on the Summer Food Service Program at www.sde.ct.gov.

Individuals looking to access summer meals can look for Summer Meal Locations as the school year is ending by contacting [2-1-1 Connecticut](http://2-1-1.Connecticut) or End Hunger CT!'s [Summer Food Site Finder](http://www.CTSummerFood.org) at www.CTSummerFood.org!

###

Media Contact: Kelly Donnelly
Director of Communications and Community Partnerships
Connecticut State Department of Education
Phone: 860-713-6525
Mobile: 860-983-1550
E-mail: kelly.donnelly@ct.gov

Applicant Contact: Caroline Cooke
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education
Connecticut State Department of Education
Phone: 860-807-2144
E-mail: caroline.cooke@ct.gov

The Summer Food Service Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal and, where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited basis will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities and wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

Persons with disabilities who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by e-mail. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is an equal opportunity employer.

NEWS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT COMPANY REGISTRATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

This release serves as notification concerning the mandatory registration requirement of food service management companies that must be met in order to participate in the 2015 Summer Food Service Program in Connecticut. Sponsors of the Summer Food Service Program may contract only with food service management companies that have registered with the Connecticut State Department of Education.

On or before April 3, 2015, each food service management company that desires to participate in the program within the State of Connecticut must submit an application or renewal for registration to the Connecticut State Department of Education. The application form for registration can be obtained by writing the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, Connecticut 06457-1543 or calling Andy Paul at 860-807-2048.

The Summer Food Service Program, funded by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal and, where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited basis will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or e-mail at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities and wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

Persons with disabilities who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by e-mail. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is an equal opportunity employer.