



For Immediate Release:

March 4, 2013

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 2013 Summer Food Service Program for Children. This summer, approximately 38,000 Connecticut children will be able to receive free meals through the 2013 federal program, but qualified local sponsoring organizations must be found.

Last year, more than 37,781 eligible children were served at 527 locations statewide through 41 locally sponsored programs. If children are to receive a nutritious meal during the summer break, local organizations' assistance is critical.

The Summer Food Service Program for Children 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).

In 2012, only 25 percent of the children who met the program eligibility criteria were served. 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 Haven, Greenwich, and Hamden.

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.

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The Summer Food Service Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), prohibits from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The State of Connecticut Department of Education is an affirmative action/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 2013 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 March 25, 2013, 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.

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