



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, January 17, 2019

[www.sde.idaho.gov](http://www.sde.idaho.gov)

**Media Contact:**

Kristin Rodine  
Public Information Officer  
208-332-6807  
[krodine@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:krodine@sde.idaho.gov)

## **SDE seeks sponsors for summer food program that feeds children in need**

(BOISE) – The Child Nutrition Division of the Idaho State Department of Education is looking for partners for this year’s Summer Food Service Program, which provides free meals and snacks to children ages 1 to 18 whose families may not be able to afford to give their children nutritious meals when school is not in session.

The State Department of Education contracts with community partners, referred to as sponsors, to operate Summer Food Service Program sites in low-income areas during the summer months.

Free and reduced-price school lunch programs end when the school year ends, but hunger doesn’t take a summer vacation. The Summer Food Service Program helps fill the hunger gap by offering year-round access to healthy food. During the school year more than 30 million U.S. children eat school lunch daily, and more than half of them receive meals free or at a reduced price.

Sponsors are reimbursed for each qualifying meal or snack they serve at approved sites. The SDE can provide assistance in identifying options for providing meals.

Last year, Idaho’s 73 summer food sponsors served approximately 1.14 million meals and snacks at more than 300 sites. For more information on becoming a Summer Food sponsor or feeding site, call (208) 332-6820.

For the 2019 program year, sponsors may be, but are not limited to:

- Public or private nonprofit schools
- Public or private nonprofit residential camps
- Local, municipal, county, tribal, or state governments
- Public or private nonprofit colleges or universities that participate in the National Youth Sports Program
- Upward Bound programs
- Religious Organizations
- Libraries

- Private nonprofit organizations

All sponsors, new and returning, are required to attend training at a location most convenient for them and must complete the application process as soon as possible. The 2019 training schedule is:

- Boise – April 8 and April 9
- Pocatello – April 10 and 11
- Twin Falls – April 12
- Fruitland – April 15
- Lewiston – April 18 and 19

Application information will be provided to eligible sponsors and is due to the State Department of Education by May 3, 2019. Department approval is required prior to program operation, and applications that are not complete by June 15 cannot be approved.

Meals for the Summer Food Service Program must be served in accordance with federal law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Non-Discrimination Policy. In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the agency, state or local, where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must include all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

###