



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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www.sde.idaho.gov

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DEPARTMENT SEEKS SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM SPONSORS

(BOISE) – The Child Nutrition Division of the Idaho State Department of Education is seeking partners for this year’s Summer Food Service Program. The Summer Food Service Program provides free meals and snacks to children, ages 1-18, who live in low-income areas during the summer months.

The Summer Food Service Program was created to assist families who may not be able to afford to give their children nutritious meals when school is not in session. Nationally, during the school year more than 30 million children eat school lunch daily, and more than half receive meals free or at a reduced price. These lunch programs end when school 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.

The Department contracts with community partners, referred to as “sponsors”, to feed children during the summer months. Sponsors are reimbursed for each qualifying meal or snack they serve at approved sites. The Department can provide assistance in identifying options for providing meals.

Last year, Idaho’s 71 summer food sponsors served approximately 1.25 million meals and snacks at over 300 sites. For more information on becoming a Summer Food sponsor or feeding site, contact Angela Kraft at akraft@sde.idaho.gov or call (208) 332-6820.

For the 2017 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 2017 training schedule is as follows:

- Fruitland – April 3, 2017
- Boise – April 4 and April 5, 2017
- Lewiston – April 7, 2017
- Twin Falls – April 11, 2017
- Idaho Falls – April 12, 2017



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Application information will be provided to eligible sponsors and is due to the Department of Education by May 5, 2017. Applications that are not complete by June 15, 2017 cannot be approved. Department approval is required prior to program operation.

Meals for the Summer Food Service Program must be served in accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture Non-Discrimination policy.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (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 (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, 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. Additionally, 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, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter 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 Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

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