



United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

Western Region

Reply to
Attn of: 225 SFSP

May 26, 2009

Subject: 2009 Western Region Summer Sunshine Awards

To: All Western Region State Child Nutrition Directors

We are requesting nominations for the 2009 Western Region Summer Sunshine Awards! This year's awards will recognize sponsors who show extraordinary efforts and achievements to encourage healthy living and improve nutrition in meals. Awards will also be given to sponsors who serve challenging communities and those who increase participation through creative programs at meal sites.

Nominations are open to the following groups for their outstanding achievements in making summer meals more nutritious and healthy for children:

- All Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option sponsors

We encourage State agencies, advocate groups, sponsors and individuals to submit nominations for these awards. Attached is the application package containing detailed information on the award categories, eligible nominees for each category, and the application process. One and only one category must be selected for each nomination or else the application will not be considered. This year's categories are:

1. Integrating Nutrition Education and Physical Activities at Sites
2. Improving Nutritional Quality of Meals, increasing Fruits and Vegetables Consumption
3. Creating Appealing Meals and a Healthy Environment
4. Service in Distinctive or Rural/Underserved Communities

State agencies must submit nominations with the State agency recommendation to the Western Region Office by **October 1, 2009**. No late entries or incomplete nominations will be accepted.

We encourage you to promote these awards in your State. Acknowledging individuals, groups and organizations commitment to improve the SFSP has a far-reaching impact on the size and quality of the SFSP and the participants it serves.

Please contact your State team if you have any questions about this bulletin.

Jesus Mendoza Jr., Director
Special Nutrition Programs
Western Region

Attachments

The 2009 Western Region Summer Sunshine Awards

Application Package

The *Summer Sunshine Awards* recognize the outstanding achievements of individuals and groups who work hard to provide nutritious meals to children during the summer months in the Western Region states of: Alaska, Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, Nevada and Washington.

A. Eligible Applicants and Award Categories

Western Region Office (WRO) will accept nominations of sponsors operating either the SFSP or NSLP Seamless Summer Option in the following four categories:

1. Integrating Nutrition Education and Physical Activities at Sites
2. Improving Nutritional Quality of Meals, increasing Fruits and Vegetables Consumption
3. Creating Appealing Meals and a Healthy Environment
4. Service in Distinctive or Rural/Underserved Communities

Sponsors may submit a self-nomination or be nominated by other group(s). The application/entry form on the following page contains detailed information on each award category. The application/nomination should designate the *one* (and only one) award category that most signifies the sponsor(s) achievements.

B. How to Apply for the Sunshine Awards and Deadlines

All those submitting nominations must use the *2009 Summer Sunshine Awards Entry Form* contained in this application package to submit their nominations. The application must effectively present the sponsor(s) accomplishments and other noteworthy achievement in the specific award category noted on the application.

Submit nominations to SFSP State agencies by the due date established by the State agency. State agencies should forward their nominations and all other nominations to the WRO no later than **October 1, 2009**.

C. Application and Evaluation Process

Sponsors or others submitting a nomination(s)/application(s) must ensure the application is complete. Narrative section is limited to the application space provided. Nominations should incorporate sufficient information to effectively evaluate the accomplishments under the appropriate category. Narratives that can clearly illustrate how the particular program or activity is innovative, sustainable, cost effective, and transferable receive the highest consideration.

Scoring is based on the five areas listed below:

(1 = lowest score to 10 = highest score, Total maximum Score: **50 points**)

- **Innovation (1-10 points)** How innovative was the program in achieving its goals?
- **Sustainable (1-10 points)** How sustainable over time is the program?
- **Cost effective (1-10 points)** Does the program make good use of available resources and cost saving practices, e.g. partners with other entities, uses non-program resources such as volunteers?
- **Transferable (1-10 points)** Can others easily replicate or transfer the program?

- **Presentation (1-10 points)** How complete, detailed and organized and well presented is the nomination?

The *2009 Western Region Summer Sunshine Awards* committee will select award winners for the following four categories:

1. Integrating Nutrition Education and Physical Activities at Sites

This award will go to a sponsor(s) that included nutrition education and physical activities as educational, recreation or enrichment programs at summer meal sites. Ideas might include finding fun ways to expose children to new foods and utilizing structured curriculum to promote a healthy diet and physically active lifestyle.

2. Improving Nutritional Quality of Meals, increasing Fruits and Vegetables Consumption

This award will go to a sponsor(s) that improved the nutritional value and quality of meals. This could mean incorporating more fresh fruits and vegetables to the menu and reducing foods with lesser nutritional values. Other examples could be using skim milk or offering more whole grain breads/products.

3. Creating Appealing Meals and a Healthy Environment

This award will go to a sponsor(s) that created meals that are both healthy and appealing to children. Examples of appealing meals could be presenting the nutritious food in fun containers or colorful arrangements. In addition, the group can promote a healthy environment by turning off vending machines and preventing sales of foods of minimal nutritional value as defined by 7 CFR 210.

4. Service in Distinctive or Rural/Underserved Communities

This award will go to a sponsor(s) who started or expanded a summer meal program to a distinct population of children or challenging community (such as rural/underserved). In this category, we will consider any sponsor/group that started or supported the expansion of summer meals to a specific population of children or rural/underserved community.

Notification of winners

WRO will be notify winners in writing approximately 60-90 days after the October 1st due date. Selected nominees and category winners may be featured in a regional or statewide publication or invited to participate in local meetings promoting the SFSP. Please be aware that there is no monetary compensation for these awards.

Questions

Any questions regarding these awards should be directed to the State agency submitting the nomination(s).

2009 Summer Sunshine Awards Entry Form

Instructions: Please complete the requested information for consideration for a 2009 Western Region Summer Sunshine Award. Please limit response to the space provided. Nominations may not be considered if incomplete data is received.

Section I: Basic Information

Program Name:			
Applicant's contact information:		Applicant's Mailing Address:	
Name: _____		Street: _____	
Title: _____		City: _____	
Phone: _____		State: _____	
Fax: _____		Zip Code: _____	
Email: _____			
If you are nominating a program, please provide your information:			
Name and Title: _____			
Phone and Email: _____			
Award Category: (check only one and do not leave this section blank)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Integrating Nutrition Education and Physical Activities at Sites		<input type="checkbox"/> Service in Distinctive or Rural/Underserved Communities	
<input type="checkbox"/> Improving Nutritional Quality of Meals, increasing Fruits and Vegetables Consumption			
<input type="checkbox"/> Creating Appealing Meals and a Healthy Environment			
Meal service(s) provided during summer (check all that apply):			
<input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast		<input type="checkbox"/> Lunch	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Snack	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Supper	
Program Information for:			
	2009	2008	2007
Total Number of feeding sites			
Total Average daily attendance			
If you are part of a partnership, please list the amount of money and/or additional resources (staff time, donated food items, etc.) your partnering agency or agencies contributed to the 2009 Summer Program:			
a. money: \$ _____			
b. additional resources (specify):			
Optional Information:			
Organization's History (Date founded, mission, community served, size of community),			
Size of Organization (number of paid staff and volunteers, current annual budget, other partnerships):			

2009 Summer Sunshine Awards Entry Form

Section II: Narrative.

Describe in detail the highlights of your program and explain how it supports this nomination for the award category checked above. Whenever possible, please illustrate how your program or activity is innovative, sustainable, cost effective, and transferable. Be specific about results achieved. Specific details will be given greater value than generalities. Please limit narrative to the space provided in the box below. A few pictures can be included as additional supporting information.

Program Name:

2009 Summer Sunshine Awards Entry Form

Program Name:

******FOR STATE AGENCY USE ONLY******

Please ensure the sponsor applying for the award is in good standing with a clean review (no major findings) during their last review. Please also provide a brief statement explaining why this program is worthy of being recognized.

SFSP State Agency:

Name and Title of State Agency Personnel:

Brief statement:

Signature:

Date: