



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SDE seeks sponsors for summer food service to children in need**

(BOISE) – The Child Nutrition Division of the Idaho State Department of Education is seeking partners for this year’s Summer Food Service Program, which provides free meals and snacks to children, ages 1-18, by operating sites 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. In Idaho during the 2019-20 school year, more than 3 million free and reduced-priced breakfasts and lunches were served. These meal programs end when school ends, but hunger does not take a summer vacation. The Summer Food Service Program helps fill the hunger gap during the summer months so that children can return to school in the fall ready to learn.

The SDE collaborates with community partners, referred to as “sponsors,” to provide summer meals to children. Sponsors are reimbursed for each qualifying breakfast, lunch, snack and/or supper they serve at approved sites.

For more information on becoming a Summer Food Sponsor or a feeding site, call (208) 332-6828 or visit <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/cnp/sfsp/>.

For the 2021 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 complete annual training with the SDE’s Child Nutrition Programs. Because traveling is prohibited during the COVID pandemic, the required training must be completed via online training courses before beginning summer operations. Information on how to complete the required training will be provided as part of the application process.

Application information will be provided to eligible sponsors and is due to the Department of Education by April 30, 2021. Applications that are not complete by June 15, 2021 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, 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. 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: [How to File a Complaint](#) or 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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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