NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE
40 NORTH PEARL STREET
ALBANY, NY 12243-0001
Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Informational Letter

Section 1

Transmittal:	12-INF-09
To:	Local District Commissioners
Issuing Division/Office:	Center for Employment and Economic Supports
Date:	July 5, 2012
Subject:	Summer Food Service Program
Suggested Distribution:	Food Stamp/SNAP Benefits Staff Temporary Assistance Staff
Contact Person(s):	FS/SNAP Bureau - @ 1-800-343-8859, ext. 3-1469
Attachments:	
Attachment Available On – Line:	☐

Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.

Section 2

I. Purpose

The purpose of this release is to provide information to local social services districts about the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), a program administered by the New York State Education Department that offers the opportunity for low-income children 18 years of age and younger, as well as disabled young adults over age 18 enrolled in school programs for persons with disabilities, to receive free, nutritious meals during the summer months when schools are not in session.

II. Background

The SFSP was created to reduce the likelihood of nutritional risk for low income children during the months when schools are closed for summer recess by providing free meals at participating summer meal sites such as schools, parks, pools, recreation centers, camps, housing authorities and other neighborhood locations. Through SFSP, schools, governments and nonprofit organizations receive Federal and State funds to continue a child's physical and social development by providing either one or two meals each day during the summer. Because summer meal sites are selected based on community demographics and pervasiveness of need, any child 18 years of age or younger who comes to an approved open site may receive meals without the need for an eligibility determination to be conducted. At camps, children eligible for free and reduced-price meals may receive SFSP meals. Young adults over age 18 who are enrolled in school programs for persons with disabilities may also participate.

III. Program Implications

Today, while nearly 14 million children nationwide receive free or reduced-price school meals for nine months out of the year, only approximately 2.3 million children participate in SFSP. Local social services districts are asked to increase SFSP program awareness by:

- Making the locations of the Summer Food Service meal sites in your county visible:
    - Post the area summer meal sites in your lobby.
      Include SFSP information, including the New York State Growing Up Healthy Hotline 1-800-522-5006 and "*Find a Summer Food Site Near You*" link www.nysummermeals.com, on your county website.
- Collaborating with your community partners, including your local Nutrition Outreach Educator, to promote SFSP awareness in your county.
- Disseminating SFSP information, resources, and outreach materials, including posting the list of open summer meal sites throughout your county. Additional information, including public service announcements, brochures, door hangers, and flyers, may be found at: http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/summer/default.htm.

OTDA has taken the following steps to increase SFSP program awareness:

- All CNS notices for TANF funded TA and SNAP openings, recertifications, and re-openings transactions have been modified to include the following updated information about the Summer Food Service Program:

  Summer should be a stress-free time full of food, friends and fun. Free summer meals can help. During the summer months, children 18 and under can receive free, nutritious meals at Summer Food Service Program meal sites. Many sites also offer fun activities, so kids and teens can stay active and spend time with friends while enjoying healthy meals. Meals and snacks are also available to persons with disabilities, over age 18, who participate in school programs for people who are mentally or physically disabled. To locate a site in your community or for further information, please contact the New York State Growing Up Healthy Hotline toll-free at 1-800-522-5006 or www.nysummermeals.com.

- myBenefits.ny.gov has been modified to include SFSP information under "Assistance Programs" (click on "*Summer Meal Program*").

- The next *myBenefits* release tentatively scheduled for mid-July will modify the prescreening tool to include a hyperlink to the NYSED SFSP site map locator.

- The OTDA Internet site has added SFSP information to the "Nutrition Program" webpage: http://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/nutrition.asp

- The following message will run from July 1 until August 10 on the JPMorgan EBT hotline and from July 1 until August 4 on the CEES hotline:

  During the summer months, children 18 years or younger are eligible to receive free, nutritious meals at participating Summer Food Service meal sites. For further details about the program in your community, please contact the State toll-free helpline at 1-800-522-5006.

Thank you for your assistance in helping New York State promote this important program.

Issued by
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Title: Acting Deputy Commissioner
Division/Office: Center for Employment and Economic Supports