



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:	13-INF-04
To:	Local District Commissioners
Issuing Division/Office :	Center for Employment and Economic Supports
Date:	June 13, 2013
Subject:	Summer Food Service Program
Suggested Distribution:	SNAP Benefits Staff, Temporary Assistance Staff, Services Staff
Contact Person(s):	SNAP Bureau - @ 1-800-343-8859, ext. 3-1469
Attachments:	Attachment 1: 2013 SFSP Outreach Order Form Attachment 2: USDA SFSP Hotline Poster in English Attachment 3: USDA SFSP Hotline Poster in Spanish
Attachment Available On – Line:	<input type="checkbox"/>

Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
12-INF-09					

Section 2

I. Purpose

The purpose of this release is to provide updated information to social services districts (SSDs) about the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), a program administered by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) 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 meals during the summer with the number of meals and dates varying by site. 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 21 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.

SSDs are asked to increase SFSP program awareness by:

- Including information about the SFSP, the *New York State Growing Up Healthy Hotline* at 1-800-522-5006, and www.nysummermeals.com on your county website.
- Disseminating SFSP information, resources, and outreach materials, including posting the list of open summer meal sites in your lobby and throughout your county. Please refer to attached 2013 SFSP Outreach Order form from the State Education Department to promote the program in your county. Additional outreach information, including hotline posters, (please see attached), public service announcements, brochures, door hangers, and flyers, may be found at:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Summer/Outreach.htm>

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/outreach/webinars/summer.htm>

- Collaborating with your community partners, including your local Nutrition Outreach Educator, to promote SFSP awareness in your county. For SFSP outreach and sponsorship information provided by Hunger Solutions of New York State, go to:

<http://hungersolutionsny.org/index.php/summerfoodresources/>.

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 include 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 includes SFSP information under “Assistance Programs” (click on “*Summer Meal Program*”).
- The *myBenefits* prescreening tool provides a hyperlink to the NYSED Summer Food Service Program page to households who screen as potentially eligible.
- The OTDA Internet site has added SFSP information to the “Nutrition Program” webpage: <http://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/nutrition.asp>
- The SFSP ends September 2, but most sites close by the end of August.
- The following automated messages will run from July 1 until August 29 on the JP Morgan EBT and CEES hotlines:

During the summer months, children 18 years old 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

Name: Phyllis Morris

Title: Deputy Commissioner

Division/Office: Center for Employment and Economic Supports