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 OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE
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 Commissioner

Informational Letter

Section 1

Transmittal:	14-INF-08
To:	Local District Commissioners
Issuing Division/Office :	Center for Employment and Economic Supports
Date:	June 24, 2014
Subject:	Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
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 2014 USDA SFSP Hotline Poster in English Attachment 2 2014 USDA SFSP Hotline Poster in English customizable Attachment 3 2014 USDA SFSP Hotline Poster in Spanish Attachment 4 2014 USDA SFSP Hotline Poster in Spanish customizable Attachment 5 2014 SED SFSP Outreach Order Form
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 13-INF-04					

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

Today, while nearly 1,170,000 children in New York State receive free or reduced-price school meals for nine months out of the year, only approximately 400,000 children participate in SFSP. 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

The advertising campaign for this summer's program will begin on July 1, 2014. The SFSP officially ends September 1; however, most sites close by the end of August.

Local Social Service districts are asked to help increase SFSP awareness by:

- Including information about the SFSP on your county website by citing the *New York State Growing Up Healthy Hotline* at 1-800-522-5006 and <http://portal.nysed.gov/portal/page/pref/CNKC>.
- Posting SFSP information in your lobby using the attached SFSP posters. Additional SFSP materials may be requested by using the attached 2014 SED SFSP Outreach Order form. Additional outreach information, including public service announcements, brochures, door hangers and flyers, may be found at:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program-sfsp>
- Collaborating with various community based partners, such as your local Nutrition Outreach Provider and area food assistance organizations, to coordinate efforts to increase participation in the SFSP.

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

- All Client Notice Systems (CNS) notices for TANF funded TA and SNAP openings, recertifications, and re-opening 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 <http://portal.nysed.gov/portal/page/pref/CNKC>.

- myBenefits.ny.gov includes SFSP information under “Assistance Programs,” (click on “Summer Meal Program”). The myBenefits prescreening tool provides a link to the NYSED Summer Food Service Program page to households who screen as potentially eligible.
- The OTDA Internet site includes SFSP information on the “Nutrition Program” webpage: <http://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/nutrition.asp> .
- The following automated message will run from July 1 until August 29 on the 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 or go to <http://portal.nysed.gov/portal/page/pref/CNKC>.

Thank you for your support in improving access to healthy, nutritious meals for low-income children during the summer months.

Issued By

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Title: Deputy Commissioner

Division/Office: Center for Employment and Economic Supports