

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

*Office of the Superintendent
700 East Fifth Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5096
Contact: Donnell Barton
Direct Phone # 775-687-9191; FAX 775-687-9114*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CARSON CITY, NEVADA, October 1, 2008- Sponsors Needed for Summer Food Service Program – Applications are now being accepted for year round sponsors of the 2009 Summer Food Service Program for children. Sponsors receive cash reimbursement for providing a nonprofit food service for children 18 years or younger in areas of economic need during school vacations. Thousands of meals were served to children in Nevada through this Program last year.

The Summer Food Service Program provides sponsors an opportunity to help ensure children's physical and social development by providing nutritious meals when they are out of school for 15 continuous school days or more. The Program helps children in low income areas have productive track breaks and summers and return to school ready to learn.

Public and private nonprofit school food authorities, residential summer camps, private nonprofit organizations, and units of local county, municipal, State or Federal government are eligible to sponsor the Summer Food Service Program.

Sponsors of the Summer Food Service Program provide the same quality meals made available to children in schools through the National School Lunch Program. All meals served in the Program must meet the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) meal patterns. Sponsors may prepare their own meals or purchase them from a school district or food service management company that meets State and Federal requirements. Sponsors must keep costs and meal count records and are reimbursed for some of the costs involved in providing meals to children.

Feeding sites selected by sponsors should be located in areas where at least 50 percent of the children are eligible for free and reduced-price school lunches. Residential camps and sponsors serving migrant workers' children are eligible to serve up to three meals per child, per day. Other eligible sponsors may serve up to two meals each day.

To be a sponsor, you must follow regulations and be responsible both financially and administratively for running your program. If your organization is interested in feeding children and you meet these qualifications, the Summer Food Service Program can help. For more information on how you can take advantage of this valuable resource for children in your community, contact Donnell Barton, Director, Office of Child Nutrition and School Health, Nevada Department of Education at 775-687-9191 or fax 775-687-9114.

"The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

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