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Vermont Agency of Education Announces the Availability of USDA Funds for Summer Food Programs

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The Vermont Agency of Education Child Nutrition Programs today announced the availability of funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for organizations that would like to become food providers in the 2017 Summer Food Service Program. The USDA Summer Food Service Program, also known as Summer Meals, is federally-funded by the USDA and state-administered by the Vermont Agency of Education Child Nutrition Programs.

This program bridges the gap between school years, giving children 18 and under, the fuel they need to play and grow throughout the summer months and return to school ready to learn. In summer 2016, 55 sponsors served 480,257 meals at nearly 300 sites throughout the state.

The Agency of Education is urging more food providers to serve summer meals. Those interested in participating should contact Jamie Curley, Summer Programs Consultant, at (802)479-1207.

“The Summer Food Service Programs is a great opportunity for Vermont youth to have access to the nutritious meals when school is out,” said Laurie Colgan, director of Child Nutrition Programs at the Agency of Education. “Combining lunch with your summer program activities in a school or community organization is a real plus for children. This would be an easy way for current school lunch providers that have the infrastructure in place, and this is an opportunity to support the food service program year round.”

The program is operated by sponsors at meal sites. Sponsors can be supervisory unions, private non-profit organizations, government entities, and non-profit residential camps. Sponsors enter into an agreement with the Agency of Education Child Nutrition Programs and file claims for reimbursement on behalf of the sites. Sponsors are reimbursed on a per meal basis for meals served to eligible children. Sites are the physical location where meals are served and consumed. Examples of sites include schools, parks, housing complexes, and libraries. Sponsors often have more than one site.

Sites are established in low-income areas. We encourage the creation of “open” sites, where any child can come eat a meal, no questions asked. Other types of sites use individual child data to determine eligibility. Children who are members of 3SquaresVT households, receive Reach Up benefits, or meet the income guidelines below are automatically eligible to receive free meal benefits.

SFSP Income Eligibility Guidelines 2017					
Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	21,978	1,832	916	846	423
2	29,637	2,470	1,235	1,140	570
3	37,296	3,108	1,554	1,435	718
4	44,955	3,747	1,874	1,730	865
5	52,614	4,385	2,193	2,024	1,012
6	60,273	5,023	2,512	2,319	1,160
7	67,951	5,663	2,832	2,614	1,307
8	75,647	6,304	3,152	2,910	1,455
For each additional household member add	7,696	642	321	296	148

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