



SUMMER TIMES

A Newsletter for SFSP Sponsors in Indiana

This email is to provide sponsors with updated and helpful information on the Summer Food Service Program in the State of Indiana. We have important news and reminders to help you in the coming months to make your summer as successful as possible!

March 2014 Edition

Here in the state office, we cannot believe summer is almost here either! We aren't sure if it is because the winter doesn't seem to want to end or because it seems like yesterday we were wrapping up SFSP 2013.

The USDA has issued the challenge to all states to increase SFSP participation (a total number of meals served) by 12% this year, and the Hoosier State has answered with "Challenge Accepted!" This early edition of the Summer Times newsletter is loaded with links to help make this your best summer ever!

Reminders

Civil Rights Training

Don't forget that civil rights training is required to be completed each year and throughout the summer as needed! Annual training is to be maintained for the online quiz and for all staff members. [Click here for Moodle.](#)

Staff Training

We look forward to seeing you at a local training if you have not yet attended, but you will need to train your staff as well. You can find information to assist with training on the SFSP page of our website:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/nutrition/summer-food-service-program>

Offer vs Serve Training

In effort to thwart waste, you may choose to use the Offer vs Serve option but you must complete the Offer vs Serve training module on Moodle and be approved to operate Offer vs Serve. [Click here for Moodle.](#)

Civil Rights Poster

For a printable (8.5"x11") version of the "And Justice for All..." poster, please click the link below:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/nutrition/civil-rights08posterjustice.pdf>

If your site is a stationary location where the large poster can be hung, we do prefer that. If you need copies of the full size poster, you can pick them up at SFSP trainings or request some to be mailed from our office.

Please ensure that all printed materials handed out to households contain the short non-discrimination statement.

Please do not deviate from the following:

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Advertising

Ideas for Where to Advertise Your Program

Advertising your program is a must for all sponsors (camps and closed enrolled sites may use different advertising venues). It can be as simple as hanging a notification for meals in the window of a local business. Here are some ideas of where to advertise in addition to contacting the local media outlet(s):

- Kindergarten Round Up
- Local Home School Networks (often, they have a newsletter for families where notification of meals can be posted)
- WIC offices
- Social Work Offices
- County Courthouse
- A local BMV branch
- Supermarkets and Food Pantries
- Where are some other places that parents in your community go?
- Where will kids gather in your community?

Summer Kick-Off

Plan a fun summer kick-off event or a SFSP awareness week! This is a great way to let kids and parents know about the availability of free summer meals. Invite local politicians like the mayor, city council members or school board members as well as school administrators. Make it a community-wide event! Provide some prizes (using non-program funds or donations) and some exciting volunteer-led activities. You can also ask for donations from local organizations in order to offer adult meals so that everyone can eat for free! Please let us know of any kick-off plans you may have! We would love to be a part of your special event!

Power Panther is Ready for a Visit!

The State Office has the Power Panther suit available to be loaned. If you are having a summer kick-off event and would like to borrow the suit, you can find the request form on our website <http://www.doe.in.gov/nutrition/program-promotion>



USDA Summer Meals Toolkit

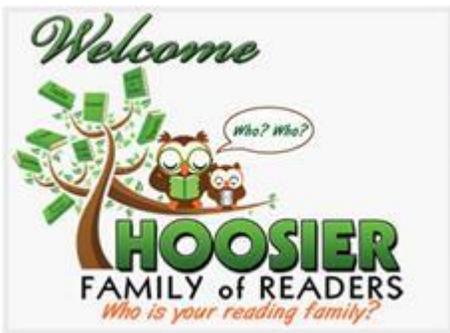
The USDA has made a summer meals toolkit which is very helpful for preparation of SFSP. You can visit the site at the link below. We have also linked the page on our website.

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-meals-toolkit>

Programming Opportunities

Eat & Read

As a former librarian, the Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction, Glenda Ritz, is passionate about reading. This program pairs the SFSP with a reading program and may be able to utilize local volunteers to come read with children during your meal service times. If interested, please contact: hoosierreaders@doe.in.gov



Girl Scouts Math and Science Van

The Girl Scouts of Indiana have a traveling math and science van that could provide programming for your SFSP special event or site. If interested, please contact: Diana Keely dkeely@girlscoutsindiana.org

Punch Card Rewards

Please make sure that if you utilize a punch card reward system, that you are not purchasing prizes with reimbursement funds. The money you spend on prizes must come from another source or you can receive donated items. Some ideas include:

- Dollar store items- Frisbees, whiffle ball sets, footballs, basketballs, jump ropes, chalk
- Movie theater passes
- Pool or Waterpark passes
- Freebies from local restaurants
- Donated books or magazines from your local library
- Ask local businesses (banks, sporting goods stores, etc.) for pens, t-shirts, flashlights, hats, etc...

While not required, programming is a great way to boost overall participation. Local volunteer groups may be interested in providing programming for your site(s). Check with local Boy and Girl Scout troops, Rotary and Lions clubs or even high school science or art clubs. Someone from your staff or a college intern can provide simple educational activities related to good nutrition and developing healthy eating habits.

Area Hunger Networks

Local hunger networks can be a great resource to help find areas of highest need where new SFSP site(s) can be established. Below are the links to the local food banks around the state.

Central/Southeast- Gleaner's Food Bank- <http://www.gleaners.org/>

East Central- Second Harvest- <http://www.curehunger.org/>

South Central- Hoosier Hills Food Bank- <http://www.hhfoodbank.org/>

Evansville Area- Tri-State Food Bank- <http://www.tristatefoodbank.org/>

North East- Community Harvest Food Bank- <http://www.chfb.org/>

North West- Food Bank of Northwest Indiana- <http://www.foodbanknwi.org/>

Lafayette Area- Food Finders- <http://food-finders.org/>

Northern Indiana- Food Bank of Northern Indiana- <http://feedindiana.org/>

Terre Haute and Surrounding Areas- Catholic Charities- <http://www.archindy.org/cc/terrehaute/programs-foodbank.html>

Louisville Area- Dare to Care Food Bank- <http://daretocare.org/>

Cincinnati Area- FreeStore Food Bank- <http://fsfbmedia.org/beta/>

Indianapolis Area- Indy Hunger Network <http://www.indyhunger.org/>

Grant Information

No Kid Hungry



Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry® campaign is ending childhood hunger by connecting kids to the healthy food they need, every day. The No Kid Hungry Center for Best Practices provides the tools and resources needed to help educators and community leaders achieve success in fighting childhood hunger. To be directed to the No Kid Hungry Best Practices Page, please click the logo above.

Resources for Summer Food Service Program including the mobile meals cost calculator can be found at: <http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/free-summer-meals-kids>

Grant Informational Webinar:

<http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/sites/default/files/resources/Summer%20Grants.mp4>

For a comprehensive list of Grant Information: <http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/download/file/fid/706>

Grant Information

In addition to No Kid Hungry, we have some information on our website to help find grants, it can be found here: <http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/nutrition/sfspgrants-posting.pdf>

USDA Farm to School Grants

USDA is now accepting applications for the fiscal year 2015 Farm to School Grant Program. Three different kinds of grants are available, as well as a separate funding track to support trainings and events. Planning grants are intended for schools just getting started on farm to school activities. Implementation grants are available for schools seeking to augment or expand existing efforts. Additionally, eligible non-profit entities and state and local agencies may apply for support service grants in order to conduct trainings and other activities. Proposals are due via grants.gov at **11:59 p.m. EST, April 30, 2014.**

New in FY 2015, USDA funds will be made available to support meetings, trainings, and events intended to strengthen farm to school supply chains or provide technical assistance. The Conference/Event grants range from \$15,000 - \$50,000. USDA expects to distribute approximately \$500,000 in additional funds to support at least one statewide or regional meeting in all seven FNS regions and at least one national conference. Letters of Intent are due at **11:59 p.m. EST, April 2, 2014.**

More information, including the request for applications, frequently asked questions, and sample proposals, can be found [here](#)

The first 5 people to respond to this email will receive a prize of unmentionable value!
(However, keep in mind we are a government agency, so it is probably just a notepad or pen.)



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