



For Immediate Release:

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Contact: Abbe Smith 860.713.6525

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER MEAL SPONSORS

Sponsoring Organizations Help Provide Nutritious Meals to Tens of Thousands of Children

(HARTFORD, CT) – The Connecticut State Department of Education is now accepting applications for the 2016 Summer Food Service Program. This summer, approximately 43,000 Connecticut children will be able to receive free meals through the 2016 federal program. Qualified local sponsoring organizations must be identified to provide meals.

Last year, more than 41,000 eligible children were served at 646 locations statewide through 62 locally sponsored programs. If children are to receive a nutritious meal during the summer break, the assistance of local organizations is critical.

The Summer Food Service Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and serves as the summer extension of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, which provide meals for students during the school year. Local Summer Food Service Program activities are coordinated by the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Local Summer Food Service Program sponsors may include public or private nonprofit school food authorities; state, local, municipal or county governments; residential public or private nonprofit summer camps; public or private nonprofit colleges or universities participating in the National Youth Sports Program; and private nonprofit organizations. Any one of these groups or organizations that are able to verify that at least half the children in their potential service area qualify for free or reduced-price school meals may apply to be a sponsor. A child's eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals is based on household income.

The Connecticut State Department of Education has identified several communities with neighborhoods eligible to host a Summer Food Service Program site. Eligible neighborhoods are those where at least 50 percent or more of the family income levels in the area are at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Eligible sponsor organizations are especially needed in these municipalities: Ashford, Bristol, Brooklyn, Canaan, Cornwall, East Windsor, Enfield, Essex, Griswold, Hamden, Montville, North Branford, Sterling, Sharon, and Old Saybrook.

All sponsors must agree to serve meals to any eligible child regardless of his or her race, color, national origin,

sex, age, or disability. Summer Food Service Program sponsors are reimbursed for each meal served, according to predetermined U.S. Department of Agriculture reimbursement rates.

Summer Food Service Program applications and further information are available through the State Department of Education, Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457-1543. Additional information may also be obtained on the Summer Food Service Program Web site at www.sde.ct.gov.

Individuals looking to access summer meals can look for Summer Meal Locations as the school year is ending by contacting [2-1-1 Connecticut](tel:2-1-1) or End Hunger CT!'s [Summer Food Site Finder](http://www.CTSummerMeals.org) at www.CTSummerMeals.org.

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Media Contact: Abbe Smith

Director of Communications and Community Partnerships

Connecticut State Department of Education

Phone: 860-713-6525

Mobile: 860-983-1550

E-mail: Abbe.Smith@ct.gov

Applicant Contact: Caroline Cooke

Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

Connecticut State Department of Education

Phone: 860-807-2144

E-mail: Caroline.Cooke@ct.gov

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NEWS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT COMPANY REGISTRATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN
THE SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

This release serves as notification concerning the mandatory registration requirement of food service management companies that must be met in order to participate in the 2016 Summer Food Service Program in Connecticut. Sponsors of the Summer Food Service Program may contract only with food service management companies that have registered with the Connecticut State Department of Education.

On or before March 15, 2016, each food service management company that desires to participate in the program within the State of Connecticut must submit an application or renewal for registration to the Connecticut State Department of Education. The application form for registration can be requested by contacting Andrew Paul at 860-807-2048 or Andrew.Paul@ct.gov.

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