

Summer Food Service Program Webinar Transcript
SNAP Outreach Coalition

For all of you for joining us today to learn more about SFSP our Summer Food Service Program. This is a webinar we're hosting for the Outreach Coalition. I am so pleased to have learned that we have over 1,000 people registered to participate in one of our 12 webinars on our summer program. We're really thrilled that there is such a great interest in learning more about this program and hearing the benefits of SFSP and hopefully making this program work for you and with you and your community.

I don't need to tell you that many low income children face a real seasonal nutrition gap. Low income kids across the nation as you know depend on free or reduced price school breakfasts throughout the school year but during the summer months and long vacation periods for schools that are on year round schedules, USDA's Summer Food Service Program makes a difference in these kids' lives by providing access to nutrition lunches from schools now and we need your help in reaching more eligible children in the many, many, many underserved communities.

Let's take a quick look at the numbers. I know many of you participating today are very much aware of these school lunch programs served almost 31 million schools and residential child care institutions. In the summer, not even a million and a half of these kids eat a school meal in summer school. While over 2 million more enjoy breakfast, lunches and a snack through the Summer Food Service Program. There are more than almost 33,000 meal sites in parks, schools, camps, churches and other locations. Which sounds like a lot, but since less than 60% of the students participating in the free meals program receive free or reduced priced meals the number show that a significant portion of low income kids are not accessing these resources.

As some of you may know; some of you may not know; the Summer Food Service Program is targeted to low income areas where 50% or more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals. Provided to children, including teenagers through age 18, this program serves up to 2 meals or 1 meal and a snack per day per child. Some sponsors may serve up to 3 meals each day actually. Despite long lot of aggressive outreach efforts that I've been engaged with for many years at the federal and state level, the Summer Food Service Program is still vastly under-utilized. It's a real challenge. Investing in and implementing improvement strategies to engage more participants continues to be critical to the program's success and one of our highest priorities. Simply put, there aren't enough sponsors and feeding sites in many of the communities with the highest need. Even though more than 20,000 school districts operate the school lunch program and over 100,000 schools and residential childcare institutions, only about 8% of these school districts sponsor the summer program. And though F&S has worked to reach new sponsors through partnerships with national and state and local groups, we need more sponsors to bring the program to underserved areas. Here is the good news. Recent legislative changes have simplified the program. Since January of 2008, simplified Food Service Program requirements were expanded to all sponsors all across the country. In addition to reducing the paperwork, the streamlined procedures allow sponsors to receive maximum reimbursement rates for the meals they serve and provide maximum flexibility for using the reimbursement for all allowable costs. So those of you who may have heard that the program is very cumbersome and administratively difficult, since 2008 it has actually become much easier to operate.

So what's the role of the community in expanding access to summer meals? It's proven that kids who miss school meals, as you know they're more likely to be sick, they're more likely to be absent or at least tardy, they tend to be disruptive in class, inattentive, they're more likely to score lower on achievement tests. So to achieve the nutritional needs of low-income kids are met when school is out, the commitment from individuals and communities is imperative. Local government, camps, schools and private non-profit organizations may be eligible to sponsor the Summer Food Service Program. Parents are encouraged to contact organizations in their communities that offer activity programs, such as local school and community centers, rec centers, faith-based organizations. By improving opportunities and leveraging

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these partnerships, our nation's kids gain not only better nutrition, but better health. Again, we're so very glad that you're participating in this webinar today. Thank you so very much. We hope that you're able to take a lot of good information away with you about our Summer Food Service Program and we hope you decide to join us and have your organization work with the SFSP. I am really grateful to you for your time today and everyday and for all you do to help feed our nation's children and strengthen our community. Now I'll turn the presentation back over to Susan.

Thank you Julie. You've heard about the program benefits. We're going to run through a few of the details about the program here now.

The Summer Food Service Program provides 2 meals per child per day. Any combination of 2 meals may be served, except a combination called lunch and supper. That leaves breakfast and lunch and breakfast and supper. Normally a program will provide breakfast when the children arrive and then provide a lunch before the children leave the site. A snack may be served, but it doesn't count as a meal. There is an exception to the 2 meal rule, which is that a camp, as well as sites that serve children of migrant workers, may serve up to 3 meals per child per day. All meals must meet the USDA standards to be eligible for reimbursement. A typical lunch may consist of meat and cheese sandwich, carrot sticks, an apple and a carton of milk. The summer program begins when a community works with a state agency. State agencies are responsible for all administrative requirements of the program so the participate in the Summer Food Service Program, each sponsoring organization must sign an agreement with the state agency. The agreement then sets forth the responsibilities of the state and also of the sponsor. The state is also responsible for providing training and technical assistance to all sponsors. States want sponsors to succeed so they will take every step necessary to assist both the new and the existing sponsors. The agencies are also responsible for monitoring the operations of participating organizations to our sponsors. Sponsoring organizations are the bread and butter of the summer program and are responsible for a wide range of functions. First, they accept the financial and administrative responsibility for the program. Second, they manage a food service. This means the sponsor must have food preparation facilities or the capability to oversee a food service management contract. Sponsors also train and monitor sites and site's personnel, arrange for meals at each site, oversee the operations at each feeding site, assure all paperwork is accurate and submitted in a timely manner, and most important actually, submit claims for reimbursement.

Several types of organizations can be sponsors of the summer program. They include groups such as community and faith-based organizations, private non-profit organizations, local government, school systems, colleges and universities, migrant centers and also Indian reservations. A feeding site can be located in a number of places, indoors and out-of-doors. Sites may be located in parks, swimming pools, community and recreation centers, churches, playgrounds, housing projects and so forth. Just about anywhere where there are children, or where children will congregate for the summer. Basically, there are two types of feeding sites according to the program.

The first one is called an open site. These sites serve meals free to all children 18 years of age or younger. The second type is called an enrolled site. These sites require the child's family to complete an enrollment form and a household income application. We can talk more about that later. In order for a site to be eligible for the program, it must meet one of two criteria. For an open site, the location where meals will be served must be located in a school attendance area where 50% or more of the children are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals. The 50% criteria is based upon school data or census data. The state agency can provide substantial technical assistance to you in making these determinations. For an enrolled site, families must submit a household income application for each child enrolled in the program. If 50% of the applications should demonstrate eligibility for free or reduced-priced meals, then the site may serve free meals to all children. That criteria may sound a bit confusing, but the

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representatives at your state agency can help you navigate this whole process and explain it in further detail. There are again two exceptions to the basic site eligibility rule. Residential and non-residential summer camps may serve up to 3 meals per child per day. However, only meals served to children who meet the free and reduced-priced meals criteria based upon household income applications will be reimbursed. The second exception is for feeding sites that primarily serve children of migrant workers. In order for the site to be determined eligible, the location must be certified by a migrant organization. Then the site may serve up to 3 meals per child per day to all children.

USDA provides two types of reimbursements to defray the costs of operating the Summer Food Service Program. Sponsoring organizations receive reimbursement for operating costs which include the cost of the food, food supplies such as paper bags and napkins and the cost of the labor to prepare the meals. Sponsors also receive administrative reimbursement for costs associated with doing the paperwork, training and monitoring of the sites and all the other functions that were discussed earlier. Additional reimbursement is also provided to sponsors that operate sites in rural areas or prepare their own meals. These are sometimes referred to as self-prep sites.

So what can you do to help? There's several ways specific to the program. You could become a sponsor to the program. If you want less responsibility, you could supervise a feeding site or you could oversee an activity program at a feeding site. Many people spend their summers looking for interesting and innovative activities for children. One of my colleagues here with the program said that they even had a zoo representative bring in animals to a feeding site for show and tell. So the program activities are fairly important for the kids. Also, if you have meal preparation facilities, you could be a meal vendor. As a vendor then you would enter into a contract with the sponsor to provide meals for all the sites.

In preparation for applying for the Summer Food Service Program here is a few organizations you may want to contact to obtain information or to form partnerships. The Mayor's office, other community organizations you could partner with, county extension agents usually know their community and other organizations; Boys and Girls clubs are a very good source of local children's programs; local Salvation Army has many successful sites sponsored throughout communities; Police and Fire departments are usually willing to help community organizations get started with something like this; local community groups like the Rotary Club can help with transportation issues; Libraries often have summer reading programs in a building that is suitable for serving meals. If you contact these organizations, plus other things community based may be helpful getting things started.

Some of the keys to success over the years as we say, there now are five ingredients for a successful program. The first key is to have creative activities for the kids and teens. The meal is often not enough to draw children to a site. However, if you add one or two meals to your recreation program, you'll have a winning combination. Partnerships are becoming more important as funding for children's programs continues to decrease. There may already be an established program in your community that could serve breakfast when the children arrive and lunch before they leave if you have an activity program.

Next, involve parents whenever you can. Parents often know the community and the neighborhood very well and are often your best source for information. Be resourceful and innovative, looking for opportunities especially unlikely ones. For instance, in rural Nebraska, the sponsor was having difficulty finding a meal vendor and then they approached a local hospital. As it turned out, the hospital was very interested and needed very little technical assistance on how to serve nutritious meals. They were a great partner.

Above all, you need to find a local champion, especially in rural areas. Someone who will go the extra mile to get the job done. This person needs to know and understand that starting a program, especially in

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a rural area, may be difficult at first, but the hard work will pay off in the end. Local champions are creative, innovative and self-starters. Every community has a few of these folks. Our guess is that the local champions are you, members of the outreach coalition.

If you're thinking how do we get started? First step is to contact your state agency representatives which can be found on our website here at SummerFood@USDA.gov. This list is in the process of being updated right now. It's almost entirely complete; there are just three states for which we are needing to get information. When the update is complete, I'll send a notice out to the coalition to let you know that the list is complete. But by and large, it's fairly complete at the moment. So, we're also in the next several weeks, going to be placing on-line tool kits for the Summer Food Service Program and we'll let you know when that goes up as well.

The state agency can basically provide you with an application and training on the required paperwork and will help you with every aspect of the program. That state agency representative is an important person to contact and to make contact with.

Now, we're ready to take a look at questions. We have a few. If you want to speak by phone, be sure and press *1 so the operator can take you off mute.

I'm just going to reiterate here that we want to be able to answer all the questions about the program today throughout the webinar that we possibly can answer. We're also interested in making our programs the very best that they can be. So, if you have suggestions for us on things that can be done to make it easier or why this Summer Food Service Program is not operating in your community. Any suggestions or recommendations for us that would be able to improve participation in the Summer Food Service Program are all appreciated, and those you can send through Q&A. Just click on the Q&A tab.

Operator, do you have any questions? Yes, we do, one moment.

Fergus Hamilton, your line is open. And then he disconnected. If you'll press *1 again we'll get him back into conference. Once again, if you would like to ask a question over the audio, please press *1.

Again, we have a question through the Q&A Service through the webinar tool. I have heard that the USDA Child Nutrition Program (Free and Reduced Price Lunches) is available to eligible home schooled and e-schooled children during the year. How does that work? Do they get food-stamps or vouchers to purchase food? And Kip Randall is going to answer her questions here.

Actually yes, there is a reimbursement program that is available to children that are at home during the school year but that wouldn't be the Summer Food Service Program that would be the Child and Adult Care Food Program. That is basically for children under the age of 12 who are either at home or day cared at home or schooled at home and they provide reimbursement. It's the same type of reimbursement that's provided through the Summer Food Service Program so the home would actually have to go to a sponsor, the sponsor would do all the administration, the sponsor would receive the payment and then pay the provider or the home schooler. So that's how that works. Thanks.

Operator, do we have another? We do have a question. Roxanne Henry your line is open.

Hi, my name is Roxanne Henry, I'm the community outreach manager at a food bank for New York City, and I had a question about actual outreach. If there is an opportunity to share great strategies in increasing participation in area that you are working with because that's what my work is, is trying to recruit more kids to participate. So, are there best practices that can be shared as to how we can go about doing that?

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Yes, well actually we have a promising practice with Scorum. It's going to be going up on the web very shortly and I can send that out to everybody at the Outreach Coalition. We're looking for all of your problems and practices for any of our programs and this would be a great way to share information back and forth.

Is that what you had in mind? Yes. Great. Thank you.

My next question comes from Risk. Hi this is Risk from the Health and Welfare Counsel and we lead the Aunt Alma Task Force Coalition. The Summer Food Service Program is one of our projects for this year and I had a couple of questions. The first one is in regards to the enrolled sites, when you're discussing about the demonstration by household income application, is there already a pre-established application that sites should use, that comes from you, or if not, are there certain criteria for documentation that's required to prove the household income?

There is already a form that is already available and it would actually be the same form that the school lunch program uses at the schools that just basically determines whether or not the income of the parents or the household and then you have a list on your end that would determine which range they fall in whether it's free or reduced priced. So you don't have to worry about actually creating that form, it is already available and you should be able to get it from your state agency once you contact them about the application process.

Great, and the other question that I had, as far as folks that you can reach out to start engaging you had stated for example to contact the Rotary Club which they can help with transportation issues, my question to that is what would some of the transportation issues be that they could assist with?

If, for instance, let's say a library has a summer reading program for kids and they have contracted out with a sponsor to deliver breakfast and lunch to those kids during the time that the summer reading program is taking place, a child that lives out in the country, they get to school by the school bus, but how are they going to get into the reading program unless they have transportation. That's one example. So they can actually assist with transporting children to the sites? Yes, and Kit, go ahead if you have anything you want to add. And also, there are circumstances where for certain camps where there is no kitchen, day camps for the day, so that the food needs to be transported to the day camp for the kids, to be delivered to the kids. That often can be a problem.

This is Duke Spring, \INAUDIBLE\ essentially there's two transportation needs. You might need a food kit, or you might need food and sponsors might have to use their resources and their capacity to prepare the meals but then they need to be dropped off at various sites. So there are two kinds of transportation domain that often arise in the program. Thank you Duke.

So would funding for the Summer Food Service Program provides reimbursement for the Rotary Club for their transportation services or would that just be a cost that they would incur on their own?

Reimbursement in the program is a per meal reimbursement and includes both the cost of the food as well as the administration of the program. So that's sort of the model that the legislation has provided us on how the program works. So there's not a separate pot of money that would go to reimburse the Rotary Club. If I'm a sponsor and I'm getting reimbursed for 100 meals at a certain per price per meal threshold depending on my site that I've got that pot of money to operate that program. I can give some to the rotary club, if that's a choice I made and I can fit that into my budget.

This is where partnerships become so important. There is a lot of organization have services which might range from transportation to staffing or people to provide programming for kids, but they are willing to give, to contribute and put together to form a really great Summer Food Service Program. So you

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know, the local church may have a van that's not being used and they can use that van to help deliver children to a site from a neighborhood for example. Or they might have staff volunteers that will be at a part somewhere that can provide great programming for kids and help do that with supervision.

You know I think that's a great idea, I'm just thinking how you capture the audience's attention to lure them into doing something like this. What have you found to be sort of the best practice or best language to use for that for them to buy into providing transportation services?

I think it's really bringing together key community partners at this time of year to do that planning and saying look, we've got... It's somebody taking a leadership and convening role in the community where there is an endless demand for summer food and saying we need to feed kids this summer, this is how the program works and here's the model, let's pull together different organizations in the community that might have something to offer and see if we can't together figure out how to create one or more effective programs. So there's not a magic slogan on a sign or a flyer that you can put out because we're talking about organizations making very real partnership commitments. So I think your best bet is to focus on the demand of the children. Look at what the characteristics of your community are and then play a convening role in bringing both those two connectors together (?) and I think some of the unfortunate yet compelling studies that have come out this year from Feeding America and FRAC and U.S. Department of Agriculture; all three of us have published organizations that really describe unfortunately the plight of children and that plight is going to be so much worse in the summertime. It always is. I think that's the hook, but you have to get people from the state to talk about what assets they have and what resources and how to put this program together.

Thank you Duke. Let's take a question now from the Q&A. Virginia has asked, "What is the reimbursement rate for school breakfast and lunch?"

Well, the reimbursement rates are published every year on January 1st so we just got new reimbursement rates this year. I can't rattle them off for you just because there are certain levels. So free and reduced lunches are going to be; there's a reimbursement rate for free, there's a reimbursement rate for reduced and then they're different for breakfast, lunch, snacks and supper. All of those should be posted on-line so if you follow that link there that's on your website they should have a link to the actual reimbursement rates for each of those. Like I said, they're different for free children and they're different for reduced-priced so you should be able to pull all of those up.

Thank you. A question from Steven: "How can a private school get enrolled in the school lunch program?"

Well, for private schools it would depend. Your organization has to be a non-profit so if it's a for profit private school then you actually wouldn't qualify for the Summer Food Service Program. If you are not a for-profit school then you would be able to qualify through your state agency. So you would have to contact your state agency. Each state has a different application process so once you contact them; they'll be able to walk you through those steps of how to get enrolled in the Summer Food Service Program.

Thank you. Operator, do you have someone else?

Yes we do. Janet Walsh, your line is open.

Yes. We're a non-profit and we have an academic summer camp program providing services for inner-city children. We transport them to our Ford County campsite. We're interested in being a sponsor. I

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would like to know what the model would look like for reimbursement for administrative, the folks actually preparing the meals, and what other reimbursements would we possibly qualify for?

When it comes to Summer Food Service Program, the reimbursement costs are capped at 15% of total reimbursement. So it really depends on how many meals you're serving and how big your organization is, but the cap is 15%.

You mean 15% of?

Your total reimbursement for meals. So, if you're getting reimbursed for 100 meals or 1000 meals, whatever that price is, then the administrative costs would be capped at 15% of that total.

So you would not pay the whole salary for any of those positions?

No, no. It is capped at 15%. What you would do is that when you submit your application and they will ask you because most state agencies do ask you for that information. They're going to ask you for your budget. They're going to ask you for how much time is committed from each person. So they are going to look at all of that, but there is a cap on the administrative costs.

Okay, thank you.

Our next question comes from Lex Henderson. Your line is open.

Yes this is Lex Henderson. I'm on the Community Outreach Committee for our church and each summer we sponsor a camp program for kids in the community. It's for just about a three week period of time. My question is there is no problem as far as the length is there, if you work for just three weeks at a time, one three-week period?

No. As long as you meet the qualifications you can do it for a three-week period. There is no minimum timeframe.

Secondly, are there any requirements for food preparation? We have a kitchen in our church that we serve meals in all of the time, but we're not checked by the health department or anything like that. Is that a problem with food preparation in such a facility?

You definitely need to be licensed; so licensed to monitor the children by a licensing board. You don't necessarily have to have like a food management license or anything like that so that's an issue, but the meals do have to meet our requirements. There are no requirements in terms of whether they need to be hot or cold, but there are certain meal components you have to meet. If you are able to meet those, then you're fine.

For example, we have the head person for all of the cafeteria matters of our school districts as a member of our church so she's familiar with that, so she could volunteer that service right, and that would meet the requirements?

Yes. You're not even required to have a dietitian look over your menus so we do have some very small providers of the summer program who, as long as they meet the meal components, you don't have to have a dietitian or professional look them over and approve them. If you want to do them yourself and you feel like they meet the requirements of the meal components, and we've made them as simple as possible, then that's fine. We're not going to ask you to get those approved by an outside source.

Okay, thank you.

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And we have another question. Roxanne Henry your line is open.

Yes, I wanted to know of your plans to engage soup kitchens a little bit more. Last year we were trying to get more soup kitchens in our network. I work for the food bank for New York City. We have some kitchens there that are within our network and we wanted to have them sign on to be sponsors of the program, but because a lot of these soup kitchens are volunteer run, the application process was very lengthy and I wanted to know if there is an easier process to engage programs that are already doing the feeding programs. I wanted to know if there is any kind of work toward that.

When you say soup kitchen, is it just the soup kitchen being for children or is it serving all age groups? So they're serving all age groups and so I know that the food is only supposed to go for kids so those programs know that and they'll have an area that would be designated to get the summer meals food. But because the application process in order for them to become a summer meal site it's a long process and so I wanted to know if there was a way of getting it a little bit more streamlined to engage more soup kitchens because they're serving children already.

Alright, well I think Julie Pearady mentioned it earlier, that in 2008 they did streamline that whole process. So now there is something called the simplified summer food service program. So that has really simplified that paperwork and a lot of the obstacles that people were running into with actually getting enrolled and on the program. So it should be much easier now for your organization to actually get enrolled and get things started.

The challenges that they would have in New York City, they would have to go down to the Department of Education's Office of School Foods building to apply in paper. Is there a way that they can do it, is there an easier way of actually filling out the application. That's a challenge, that they have to go and get it and fill it out at a central location at one location that may be far away from where their program is and the programs are often volunteer run so there is one or two people that are doing the program at their site.

Right, thank you, that's helpful information. I'm sorry? Every state runs their program in their own way a little differently. States administer the programs so we sort of provide the funding and the legislative regulatory framework here at the federal level. Hearing what you're saying, what we will do as a point of follow-up is we'll contact our regional office and we've got an office in New York City and we'll see if that is indeed a fact and if we can encourage an application process that could happen in a way that's a little more acceptable and perhaps we can mail the applications or fax it or something.

We'd be happy to help assist with that because we have a lot of soup kitchens within our network but last year it was extremely difficult and we didn't get a big response because of the fact that we would have to go to the actual location to fill it out.

We can't promise anything because we haven't looked into it yet, but we can promise to work with you to do that and maybe after the fall if you could hook up with whoever's e-mail you have, Emily's or Susan's, make sure that we have your contact information and remind us that this is your issues and we will work with our regional office to see if we can't do something about it. Ok Thank you.

I'm going to pause here for second to answer one of the webinar questions that came in because I think this is really important. The question is Hi, given that the Summer Food Service Program is a federally funded state administered program, what's the most important role of city government and local elected officials to play in this work?

We'll ask everyone here to provide their perspective on this but right off I would say that the city government and local elected officials can play an extremely important role because they have charge for

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public welfare. They have access to information so that they can ask the community, they can define the problem and we have so many kids that need help with meals in the summertime, they can organize the activities, they can call the organizations together to participate in setting up a Summer Food Service Program. Federal money and it's stated administered but it is a community program and it is for the children in your communities. Kit, do you have anything you want to add to that?

Well, I think it sort of reflects back to the previous question that we had where you're talking about maybe struggles with the application and things like that. That's something that you have to deal with at the state level or the local level because like DB said, each state is different in how they administer the program. So you might want to voice those types of concerns to the state or local government so that they can hammer it out and they can make changes there to make sure that it's easier for you guys to implement and get on the program.

Ok, thank you. Operator. The next question comes from Richard Bland. Your line is open.

Hi. This is Rich Bland and I am the director of Federal Government Relations for YMCA of the USA and we have hundreds of camps that take advantage of this at one time or another. I know that over the years I would say that actually recently just this last summer members of congress were asking us to give feedback on obstacles and it was useful for us to get feedback on and we could do a follow-up conversation on that as to the specifics. If I were to group the two biggest problems it would be, in the feedback that we got, we're the largest provider of camps and day camps and overnights in the country. It would be the application process and the daily, weekly and monthly follow-up forms that need to be submitted so that the kind of administrative overhead would be one big group. Then the other is the food required to be on plates whether the kids want it or not, and then it ends up having to be required to be thrown out ends up being a tremendous problem. My question is, since 2008, has anything significant, it sounds like there have been significant changes to the administrative side. Is there a summary of that as it would be helpful for me at my role at Y USA to really get people back interested in the program? Those two big hurdles maybe could be overcome if there was a summary or maybe we do a follow-up meeting talking about that.

There should be a summary of the simplified summer food program and changes that have been made. Again you can follow the website that lists it there to see about that. In terms of the nutritional site, there is some, we hear a lot of concerns about the plate waste and things being thrown out and we are definitely working on that, but at this point, it is still a requirement that all the components be served. We just asked that if you see that a lot of the children aren't eating a particular food, and your organization has the ability to change it to something else, we say go for that. We defiantly encourage that you provide variety in what you are serving, because we understand kids get bored, they don't like to try new things, and so we're aware of all that. But there are processes in the works to address that and to get some changes coming along on the meal component side of it. Ok, thank you.

I am showing no further questions on the audio. Ok. The webinar tool we have a couple more questions. One states, I am with an organization that serves low income communities in Dorchester-Boston at established locations, schools etc. Over the summer I would be interested in working with summer camps run through community partners. Would I be considered a sponsor or a vendor?

Well, that depends on what type of role your organization wants to take. So if you are interested in partnering with these programs and actually being responsible for the paperwork side of it, you'll be responsible for the meal account, you'll be responsible for the menus and be responsible for things like that. That would make you a sponsor. If you are more interested in just preparing the meals and making

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sure that they are delivered to the organizations or the camp sites, then that would make you on the vendor side of it. So it really just depends on what role your organization is willing to take on.

Ok, I'm not sure I understand.

The next question is if we have another agency that would like to be the sponsor for this program, can they use the existing lunch application data that the school district already approved for the school year?

Yeah they can. So if you're talking about your program wherever the location is, then we're going to go with the nearest schools to that location and you can pull the data from that location to determine whether or not your site is going to be eligible and also what reimbursement rates your site is going to get. So yes, you can use existing school data already.

Another question is, can census data include people that are 19 years and older? I'm assuming that means the data that needs to be collected for the application.

Usually when we're talking about data for the application, we usually go with the school districts, because every place has a nearby high school or secondary school or elementary school. So we don't tend to rely on census data and we more so rely on the school data. Another reason for that is because school data is updated more often than census data is so we usually stick with school data.

Thanks Kim.

Someone has written in, Karen in the Mountain Resource Center in Colorado has written in saying I would like to know if you can provide a list of rural sponsors who have successful programs because we are interested in starting a program in our rural mountain community.

That's something that you're going to have to contact your state agency about. So the Colorado State agency definitely would have a list of those sponsors. We don't keep a collective list here. So each individual state office would have that list. If you give them a call and tell them that you are looking for a rural sponsor, they would be able to give you all that information.

This actually, ok, one of the barriers on Long Island New York is that Long Island New York is experiencing is that our sponsors do not know if the Summer Food Service Program will be funded for the 2010 year. This stops us from recruiting sites, additional sponsors and stops us from conducting outreach for the program. When is the date for announcing the funding allocations?

Well, Kelly said appropriations is a big thing. We haven't heard anything yet, but we are not under the impression that the Summer Food Service Program will not be funded. So that shouldn't be a huge concern that there will be no funding there. It's reaching the needs, it's a very important program, and I just can't imagine that it won't be funded. As soon as we do hear anything about the 2010 funding, you guys will be the first to know. It's coming, we just don't know when.

There's another questions that says when will we know about CNR grants for SFSP? What innovative methods are being considered? I'm not really sure what you mean by CNR grants, there aren't any grants coming down the line for Summer Food Service Programs. There was quite a bit of money in the last appropriations bill that provides for demo projects for the Summer Food Service Program. Those are actually going to be started this summer coming up. It is only going to be open to a limited amount of states and basically the states that have the biggest needs. So it's not going to be necessarily a process where we just give you money and you run a project or proposal or something. This is going to be something that we're going to actually be going to the states and implementing on our end. We're just

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going to be asking states whether or not they would like to participate. So there aren't necessarily grants, there's more demonstration projects that we're going to be doing in the coming years.

Ok Operator do you have anyone else that has any questions? At this time I'm showing no further questions once again if they would like to ask a question please dial *1. At this time I'm showing no questions.

Great. We want to thank everyone for participating and any information that you can send us after the webinar is also great. We appreciate it, especially if it's going to help us understand how to maximize Summer Food Service Programs and to make the administration of the program better than it is today. So thank you for your time, thank you Kim. We'll be signing off.