



Feeding Your Tribal Youth This Summer

Dear:

Increasing healthy meals served to low-income children during the summer months continues to be a top priority for USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in 2014. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a key component of a strategy to ensure our children receive the meals they need during the summer. However, we cannot do it alone, but working together, we believe we can increase participation and ensure all our children on or near Tribal lands have access to a healthy meal this summer. The SFSP is a federally funded program administered by State agencies that helps fill the summer meal gap by reimbursing organizations that serve low-income children meals at feeding sites when school is not in session.

Historically, summer meals (which include meals served by the SFSP and National School Lunch Program) reach only about 16 percent of the 21 million children receiving free or reduced-price lunches during the school year. We are committed to significantly increasing the number of meals served this year and in the future, with special emphasis on reaching children in Tribal communities. Collaborating with schools, churches, recreation centers, playgrounds, parks, libraries, tribal offices and camps can provide summer meals in areas of need, creating a positive influence on the lives of hungry children.

Increased participation of Tribal organizations in providing access to summer meals for children on Tribal lands is a priority for FNS. FNS National and Regional Office staff will work closely with your organization and members to provide technical assistance, help identify and highlight best practices and address any participation barriers. The goals of this targeted technical assistance also include cultivating strong partnerships and working relationships, while ensuring Tribal communities are supported at all levels.

In addition, FNS will continue our outreach and communication efforts to assist your Organization and members with program details. As part of our National outreach effort, we are offering free webinars on summer meals. These webinars will review summer feeding participation requirements; cover resources and tools available to help get started; highlight successful programs and outreach practices from around the country; and provide an opportunity to have questions answered by FNS program experts. Times and registration instructions will be available on our website in the near future.

We also will provide an SFSP toolkit for your organization and members interested in becoming a summer sponsor or site, which will be posted on our website as well. For more information and updates about the Summer Food Service Program please visit www.summerfood.usda.gov. For your members that may not have direct Internet access, we will offer an 800 number available for them to participate and will work with



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you to provide any materials that will be presented, before or after the webinar.

We look forward to working with you and your membership to increase the number of meals served this summer. If you have any questions, please contact Kiev Randall, Program Analyst-Tribal Relations, at kiev.randall@fns.usda.gov or at (703) 305-2828.



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