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Summer Food Service Program seeking sponsors and sites

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Education’s office of Child and Adult Nutrition Services is seeking sponsors and sites for the Summer Food Service Program. Community organizations, nonprofits, schools, tribal and local governments can apply to be sponsors if they operate in low-income areas, serve a group of mostly low-income children or operate a summer camp with a high proportion of low-income participants. Parks and recreation departments, city and county health departments, libraries and neighborhood service agencies participate as sites or sponsors.

When school is in session, 61,712 South Dakota students receive free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program. The Summer Food Service Program provides food service to students when school is not in session. Children age 18 and younger may receive a meal free of charge at a participating site. In 2014, South Dakota Summer Food Service sponsors served 428,883 meals, which is an increase from the 418,012 meals served in 2013 and the 375,705 served in 2012.

“Even though we have experienced an increase in the number of meals served through the summer feeding programs over the past few years, I know there are still hungry children in the state. When children are enjoying the summer, they lose access to school meals,” said Julie McCord, program specialist with South Dakota’s Child and Adult Nutrition Services. “The Summer Food Service Program can really help fill that need.”

Organizations interested in reviewing sponsor responsibilities can watch the [Summer Food Service Program Overview](#). To learn more about serving as a sponsor or site, call Child and Adult Nutrition Services at (605) 773-3413. For more information and to register for training, go to <http://doe.sd.gov/cans/sfsp.aspx>. The deadline to register for training is Feb. 20. Sponsors are often looking for partners to help provide activities and educational programs to encourage continued student participation throughout the summer.

The Summer Food Service Program is federally funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is administered by the South Dakota Department of Education. This agency is an equal opportunity provider.