



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM GRANT RELEASED**

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides healthy meals to children, age 18 and younger, free of charge as children need good food all year long, even when they're not in school.

Right now The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) Nutrition Services is seeking potential sponsors to operate the SFSP in Nebraska this summer.

Eligible sponsors include public or private non-profit schools, residential camps, and local, municipal, county, or state government sites as well as private, nonprofit sponsors and organizations.

The SFSP operates during the summer or any school vacation of at least three weeks in schools with a continuous school year calendar. Meals and snacks are usually served to children in such places as schools, churches, playgrounds, or parks.

The SFSP was created to ensure that children in low-income areas can continue to receive meals during long school vacations when they do not have access to school lunch or breakfast.

NDE Nutrition Services has grant funds available to assist new and existing SFSP sponsors with expenses for expanding and/or initiating SFSP services. Each applicant may apply for a maximum of \$15,000 per year.

To be eligible as a SFSP sponsor and to apply for grant funding, organizations must be located within the boundaries of a school district in which 50 percent or more of the students qualify for free and reduced lunches or be within the boundaries of a census tract in which 50 percent or more of the children fall below the poverty threshold. The deadline to apply for a grant is March 2.

To verify your eligibility, contact Nutrition Services at 402-471-2488 (Lincoln) or 1-800-731-2233 (outside of Lincoln).

To download a grant application, visit the Nebraska Department of Education Nutrition Services web page at: <http://www.education.ne.gov/NS/SFSP/news.html>.

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*Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights*

*1400 Independence Avenue, SW*

*Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;*

*(2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or*

*(3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).*

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