

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DPI seeking sponsors for Summer Food Service Program

MADISON — The Department of Public Instruction is seeking sponsors for the Summer Food Service Program, which provides free meals to economically disadvantaged children during the summer.

“Each year, Wisconsin has experienced an increase in the number of children eating meals at Summer Food Service Program sites across the state,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “Our schools and nonprofit organizations have increased their sponsorship and the number of feeding sites to serve the growing number of families struggling in the weak economy.”

Last year, Wisconsin’s 187 Summer Food Service Program sponsors provided 2.5 million free meals to children from low-income families during the summer months. The number of sponsors for the federal program increased by 10 from the prior year and is double the number sponsors from 10 years ago. Sponsors operated 759 sites statewide in 2013.

Summer Food Service Program sponsors for 2014 may be:

- public or private nonprofit schools;
- public or private nonprofit residential camps;
- local, municipal, county, tribal, or state governments;
- public or private nonprofit colleges or universities;
- Upward Bound programs;
- libraries; or
- private nonprofit organizations.

The most common sponsor for the Summer Food Service Program has been local school districts which combine a meal program with their summer school sessions. Through partnerships and creative collaboration, some districts have been able to work with other organizations to extend the Summer Food Service Program beyond summer school to meet the needs of more children.

All sponsors for the 2014 program year must complete the online Summer Food Service Program application at www.wisummerfood.org. New sponsors for the program will be required to attend a training session

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on April 2 in Madison. A number of program policy changes have occurred since last summer, therefore continuing sponsors for the 2014 summer program are encouraged to attend one of the training sessions to be offered around the state. Those sessions will be held on March 14 in Madison and March 21 in Rice Lake. The deadline to register for training is Feb. 21 and must be done online at www.wisummerfood.org.

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The DPI has administered the Summer Food Service Program since its inception in 1975. Additional information about the program is available from Amy Kolano, (608) 266-7124, the DPI website at www.wisummerfood.org, or the USDA at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program-sfsp>.

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NOTE: This news release is available electronically at http://news.dpi.wi.gov/files/eis/pdf/dpinr2014_09.pdf.