

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DPI seeking sponsors for Summer Food Service Program

MADISON — Each year, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction seeks sponsors for the Summer Food Service Program, which provides free meals to economically disadvantaged children during the summer.

“The Summer Food Service Program continues to grow in Wisconsin,” noted State Superintendent Tony Evers. “Our public and private schools and nonprofit organizations have increased their sponsorship and the number of feeding sites to serve the increasing number of families struggling in the weak economy.”

Last year, Wisconsin’s 195 Summer Food Service Program sponsors provided 2.6 million free meals to children from low-income families during the summer months. The number of sponsors and meals served in Wisconsin has increased 30 percent in the last five years. Sponsors operated 789 sites statewide in 2014.

Summer Food Service Program sponsors for 2015 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 2015 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 on March 26 in Madison. A number of program policy changes have occurred since last summer, therefore continuing sponsors for the 2015 summer program are encouraged to attend one of the training sessions to be

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offered around the state. Those sessions will be held on March 13 in Madison and March 19 in Rice Lake. The deadline to register for training is Feb. 20 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 online at http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015_04.pdf.