



## Rural Development

June 26, 2019

TO: Property Owners and Managers of USDA Rural Development Facilities

SUBJECT: Hosting the USDA Summer Food Service Program in Maine

In states across the nation many children receive free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch while school is in session through USDA's School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs. However, when schools let out for the summer, **many of these children are likely to have limited to no access to breakfast and lunch.** Together we can work to ensure that kids who receive meals during the school year continue to have access to nutritious foods during the summer months too.

The USDA Food and Nutrition Services Summer Food Service Program serves free, healthy meals to eligible low-income children and teens during the summer months when they're not in school. **Multi-Family Housing and Community Facilities sites funded by USDA Rural Development provide an excellent setting to host the Summer Food Service Program.** With your participation in the program, your community can receive meals from local sponsoring organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs, local school districts, etc. These organizations prepare the meals and deliver them directly to your facility.

USDA is committed to ensuring its nutrition programs are run as effectively and efficiently as possible; continuing to help States support high-quality Summer Food Service Program sites; increasing program integrity while providing meals for those truly in need; and improving the quality of life and creating prosperity in rural communities. The Summer Meals collaboration provides a great opportunity to build innovative partnerships and leverage our collective resources to feed rural children during the summer.

Rural Development and the Food and Nutrition Service invite you to join the Summer Food Service Program and provide free, healthy meals to children living

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in your community. Your responsibility in this effort is manageable: you are responsible for providing a location for meals to be distributed (indoors or outdoors), and in some cases, provide oversight and keep records. Details would be worked out with the sponsoring organization in your town.

**For more information about the Summer Meals Program in your area please contact Adriane Ackroyd at 207-624-6726 or email her at [Adriane.Ackroyd@maine.gov](mailto:Adriane.Ackroyd@maine.gov).** You can also learn more about Summer Meals at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program> where you will find many resources.

Thank you for your support in helping Maine families in need this summer!

Kurt Messner  
Regional Administrator  
USDA FNS Northeast

Timothy P. Hobbs  
State Director  
USDA Rural Development, Maine

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