



Research,
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Agricultural
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Division

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Date: May 10, 2013

Dear: Regional, State and Local WIC Offices

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has important information about food assistance during the summer months for you and your participants.

Many low-income children receive free or reduced price meals during the school year. However, when schools are closed during the summer, many families struggle to provide meals or must look elsewhere for food assistance. Through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), USDA provides free, nutritious meals for children ages 18 and under at local sites such as schools, recreation centers, playgrounds, parks, churches, summer camps and more, all over the country and all summer long.

For information on where your participants can find sites that provide summer meals in your community, you can visit the WhyHunger web site at:

www.whyhunger.org/findfood or call the **National Hunger Hotline** at **1-866-3-HUNGRY** or **1-877-8-HAMBRE**. You can also access the WhyHunger website via the WIC Works Resource System (WWRS): wicworks.nal.usda.gov. Information on summer meal sites is also available from the State agencies that administer SFSP locally. State agency contact information is available at www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Contacts/StateDirectory.htm.

To learn more about the SFSP and how you can help ensure that children in your community have access to summer meals, you can visit the USDA web site at:

www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp.

We hope you find this information and these materials helpful to your referral and education efforts. Visit the WWRS for additional materials. Let us know what else we can do to help you help WIC! Contact the WWRS team by phone: 301-504-6047, by fax: 301-504-6409, or by email: wicworks@ars.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

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