



Rural Development

State Office
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Columbus, OH 43215

Phone 614.255.2401

March 8, 2019

Greetings:

Once again this year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is pleased to sponsor the Summer Food Service Program ([SFSP](#)), which helps ensure children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session.

Each day during the school year, an estimated 26 million children in the United States eat a cafeteria lunch. Of these, about half receive free or reduced-price meals. Sadly, during the summer months, many of these same children are at risk of going hungry.

In Ohio, the SFSP is undertaken in coordination with USDA's Food and Nutrition Service and the Ohio Department of Education. Our role at Rural Development is to help match Multi-Family-financed properties (potential "Sites") with SFSP sponsors to make this vital program available to as many underserved rural Ohio children as possible.

As rural Multi-Family Housing property owners and managers, you are in a unique position to help. Will you please provide Housing Specialist Deanna Van Meter with a list of properties you believe can serve as feeding sites? The requirements are nominal: a common space in which to serve already-prepared meals during a supervised time period, and a volunteer willing to be present during – and help clean up after – the meal service itself.

When we first began to amplify this program in earnest in 2016, just two properties statewide came aboard. Last year, with your generosity, nearly 30 Ohio Multi-Family properties participated! With a little effort and some assistance from the Summer Food Service Program, we *can* help eliminate childhood hunger. Let's work together again this year to reach even more children.

The attached flyer offers a brief overview of the SFSP, and you may contact Ms. Van Meter at Deanna.VanMeter@usda.gov or by phone at 614-255-2516 with additional questions. Please provide your list to her no later than close of business on March 15.

Sincerely,

David L. Hall
STATE DIRECTOR

Christie Hooks
HOUSING PROGRAM DIRECTOR