



# **Columbia & Montour Counties Summer Food Workshop**

**April 26, 2011**

## **AGENDA**

**Welcome & Introductions**

**What is the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)?**

**Why is it needed here?**

**The Players**

**Logistics—Sponsors & Sites**

**Open Site-Eligible Areas**

**Current SFSP Sponsor/Sites**

**Best Practices**

**How to Help**

**Questions**

**Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation DVD**

**Wrap-Up**



## **What is the Summer Food Service Program?**

A federally-funded program operated nationally by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and administered in PA by the Dept. of Education, it was created in 1975 to provide free meals to children in low-income areas so that they receive nutritious meals during long school vacations, when they do not have access to school lunch or breakfast.

SFSP sponsors receive reimbursement for qualifying meals served to eligible children and served at approved SFSP sites.

## **Are there other Summer Nutrition Programs?**

The Summer Seamless Option (SSO) is available to school food authorities (SFAs) in low-income areas to serve meals during non-school months. It provides a seamless transition from the school year into the summer by allowing SFAs to continue operating the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program during the summer. While only SFA's may sponsor SSO, sites may be located at various community locations.



Because the reimbursement rate is higher, most PA school districts participate in SFSP rather than SSO. There are no SSO sponsors in Columbia or Montour County.

## The Why...

***While learning doesn't end when school lets out, neither does the need for good nutrition. SFSP is good, nutritious food that's "in" when school is "out."***

**In PA, 3 out of 4 children who get free or reduced-price lunches during school year don't get free summer meals.**



**Over 3,665 low-income, school-aged children  
Only 10 summer feeding sites in Columbia County**

**Over 670 low-income, school-aged children  
0 summer feeding sites in Montour County**

### **Program Benefits**

- ♦ Gives children the food they need to learn, play, and grow
  - \* Reduces childhood hunger
  - \* Combats childhood obesity
- ♦ Helps families stretch food budgets
- ♦ Keeps children safe and mentally engaged when school isn't in session

**Hunger Does Not Take a Vacation!**

## The Players



### **PA Dept. of Education (PDE) Food & Nutrition Services**

- ◆ Signs agreements with sponsors
- ◆ Provides training and technical assistance
- ◆ Monitors and distributes reimbursements

### **Sponsor**

- ◆ Handles administration and training for sites
- ◆ Reports to PDE

### **Site**

- ◆ Feeds and supervises kids
- ◆ Provides activities
- ◆ Reports to Sponsor

### **Vendor**

- ◆ Some sponsors may choose to use a vendor for meals, while others will prepare meals themselves.
- ◆ Vendors include: school districts, private nonprofits, and commercial meal vendors

### **PA Hunger Action Center**

- ◆ Help connect sponsors with sites
- ◆ Help connect sponsors/sites with PDE
- ◆ Provide outreach support

## Who can be a Sponsor?

- ◆ Public and private schools
- ◆ Local government agencies, such as Parks and Recreation Departments, Health Departments, Public Housing Authorities
- ◆ Private nonprofit organizations, such as YMCA, food banks, and houses of worship
- ◆ Summer camps of all kinds

## How can a site be eligible?

- 1) Located in a low-income area (Open Site)
  - ◆ At least 50% of the children in the area qualify for free or reduced-price school meals
  - ◆ Determined by school district or census block data
  - ◆ "Pockets of poverty"
- 2) Serve primarily low-income children (Enrolled/Closed Site)
  - ◆ At least 50% of the children enrolled in the program qualify for free or reduced-price school meals
  - ◆ Determined by returned income-eligibility forms or data-sharing with local school district's food service director.
- 3) Serve primarily migrant children
- 4) Operate a camp with many low-income children
  - ◆ Camps are reimbursed for the meals served to children eligible for free or reduced-price meals

## Where can sites be located?

- ◆ Schools
- ◆ Summer Programs & Summer Camps
- ◆ Parks & Community Swimming Pools
- ◆ Libraries
- ◆ Housing Complexes
- ◆ Churches & Other Houses of Worship
- ◆ Any other places where children (could) congregate



## **Areas Eligible for Open Sites in Columbia & Montour Counties**

### **Anywhere within:**

**Berwick Area School District, Bloomsburg Area School District, and Benton Borough**

### **Parts of:**

**Danville Borough and Mechanicsville**

## **But what if my site isn't in any of those areas?**

### **Contact PA Dept. of Education**

Your location could still be eligible for open sites.

- ◆ Up-to-date school data
- ◆ Can look back through 5 years of data
- ◆ "Pockets of Poverty"

### **Be an Enrolled/Closed Site**

- ◆ By having families fill out forms to make sure that at least half of the kids you're serving are income-eligible, you'll still be able to feed kids in need.
- ◆ These sites are best for programs with activities for which children already have to enroll.

### **Try Again Next Summer**

Even if your site isn't located in an eligible area for open sites this year, it might be next year.

- ◆ School Data: Your district might have had a building with a low-income student body composition just shy of 50% in the past 5 years but more than that next year.
- ◆ CENSUS 2010 Block Group Data (scheduled to be released later this year): Some areas were close to qualifying with 2000 data, and 2010 data may qualify them for next summer.

**There are hungry kids in **EVERY** community.**

# Best Practices

## Activities

- ◆ Sites that provide activities are the most successful
- ◆ Sports, games, arts & crafts, etc.
- ◆ Be creative with partnerships: libraries, fire companies, police departments, etc.
- ◆ Participants as volunteers. Small children can greet or hand out napkins, while older children can help lead group activities.
- ◆ Attendance Incentives: certificates, prizes, contests
- ◆ Involve entire family (but make sure adults know that meals are for the children only)

## Outreach

- ◆ Local schools & PTA/PTO
- ◆ Hotlines & Websites
- ◆ Newsletters & Bulletins
- ◆ Door Hangers, Flyers, Posters
- ◆ Make sites and/or signage visible and eye-catching
- ◆ Networks of local service providers
- ◆ Media—Newspaper Piece, Kick-Off Event, Public Service Announcements, Elected Officials
- ◆ Community Foundations & Businesses
- ◆ Volunteers!



## Creative Partnerships

- ◆ Bookmobile and School Bus Mobile Cafeteria
- ◆ Cooperative Extension & 4-H
- ◆ Youth Work Training Programs
- ◆ College Students as Volunteers
- ◆ Senior Centers

**Don't Forget: TEENS are Kids, too!**

## How to Help

- ◆ Become a Sponsor
- ◆ Become a Feeding Site
- ◆ Volunteer Your Time & Talents
- ◆ Connect Sponsors/Sites with Community Resources
- ◆ Spread the Word!



## Do you know anyone else who might be interested in helping?

- ◆ Programs that already feed children
- ◆ Programs that might want to add a meal to their summer program/activity
- ◆ Places where children already congregate
- ◆ Places children could walk to
- ◆ Summer schools and summer camps

## If so...Have them contact:

Laurie Kepner, SFSP Administrator  
PA Dept. of Education  
1-800-331-0129, ext. 537637  
RA-SFSP@state.pa.us

Or

Laura Tobin Goddard, Outreach Manager  
PA Hunger Action Center  
717-561-0067  
ltobin@pahunger.org