



Responding to H1N1-Related School Dismissals

**USDA's Summer Food Service Program
and Seamless Summer Option**

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USDA Policy Guidance

- *Responding to School Closings for H1N1 Outbreaks*
 - July 23, 2009 (SP 31-2009, SFSP 05-2009)
- **Questions and Answers**
 - July 31, 2009 (SP 33-2009, SFSP 06-2009)

www.fns.usda.gov/disasters/pandemic/default.htm



Overview

- **USDA's Summer Food Service Program or Seamless Summer Option**
- **School dismissals following declaration of Public Health Emergency for H1N1**
- **Target meals to free and reduced price children in closed schools**



Eligible Entities

- School food authorities
- Other community organizations eligible to operate SFSP
 - Private nonprofit organizations
 - Local governments
- No duplicate coverage for a closed school



General Requirements

- **Meals may be served to low-income children age 18 and under in dismissed schools**
 - Other household children also may be served
- **Maximum 2 meals per child per day**
 - Breakfast, lunch, snack
- **Reimbursement at SFSP rates or free rate for Seamless Summer Option**
- **No congregate meal service**



“Site” Eligibility

- **Schools with 50 percent or more free and reduced price enrollment**
 - Meal distribution may include all families in dismissed school
- **Schools with less than 50 percent free and reduced price enrollment**
 - More directly target low-income students
- **Overall goal is to address the loss of school meals for low-income children enrolled in dismissed schools**



Sponsor Requirements

- **Agreement to operate SFSP or SSO**
- **Waiver request**
 - School(s) to be served
 - Meals served (breakfast, lunch and/or snack)
 - Meal distribution method and targeting
 - Food safety considerations
 - Methods for communicating with families
 - How proper operation will be ensured



Resources

- **Waiver request prototype**
 - States may request additional information
- **Prototype agreement language**
- **Additional questions and answers**





Planning for Meals to Needy Children During an H1N1-Related School Dismissal

**Dr. Janey Thornton
Deputy Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services**





Preparing at the Local Level

Local school nutrition employees are key to feeding needy children



Steps in the Process

1. Assess community needs
2. Engage stakeholders in the process
3. Prepare or modify your plan
4. Obtain an agreement or addendum to existing agreement with State Agency
5. Communicate your plan



Assess the Needs of Your Community

- Number of children receiving free and reduced price meals
- Meal preparation capacity by school
- Geographic distribution for meal transportation/delivery



Identify Community Stakeholders

- Community Service Agencies and Programs
- Health department
- Local government officials
- Hospitals
- Civic organizations
- Parent organizations
- Churches
- Local businesses



Prepare Your Plan

Develop menus for alternate meal service

Determine resources

- Food inventory
- Forms of food
- Emergency food deliveries
- Delivery vehicles



Submit Application for Waiver

- As early as possible
- Think comprehensively about your school districts' needs



Communicate

- Staff training
- School administrators and teachers
- Parent organizations
- Community and government organizations



Put Your Plan Into Action

- **Develop a list of contacts**
 - Workers
 - Vendors
 - Administrators
 - Families
 - Community organizations/volunteers
- **Contact details**
 - Phone Tree
 - Chain of command



Put Your Plan Into Action, (cont.)

- How will you communicate?
- How are meals getting to needy children?
- If schools are distribution centers, what is the schedule?
- If delivering meals, what is the schedule?



FNS Program Challenges

All of the FNS nutrition assistance programs require some face-to-face contact:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and WIC
- TEFAP, CSFP and FDPIR
- Child Nutrition Programs





Schools are a Trusted Resource

Other Nutrition Assistance:

- SNAP and WIC
- Food banks and soup kitchens
- Other private organizations

