



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

SFSP CN# 03-09

MEMORANDUM

To: Summer Food Service Program Sponsors

From: Mary Szafranski, Deputy Associate Superintendent
Health & Nutrition Services Unit

Lynn Ladd, Director
School Health & Nutrition Programs Department

Date: July 16, 2009

RE: Avoiding Food Waste at Summer Food Service Program Feeding Sites

Original Signed

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors should make every effort to keep food waste to a minimum. In accordance with 7 CFR 225.15(b), sponsors must plan, prepare, or order meals with the goal of providing one meal per child at each meal service, and must ensure that entire meals and food components are not often left over and unusable. When sites experience situations of leftover food, sponsors should promptly adjust production or meal orders to more accurately reflect the number of participants.

Despite these efforts, however, sites may have excess food on occasion. In this situation, sponsors should exhaust all alternatives permitted by State and local health and sanitation codes before discarding food. Options may include offering “sharing tables,” transferring meals to other feeding sites, and refrigerating the food for next-day use. Sponsors should contact their local health department to find out what is allowable in their county.

Food donations made by SFSP sites can provide a valuable resource to organizations working to address hunger in local communities, such as homeless shelters, food banks, and pantries. Although **donated meals may not be claimed for reimbursement** in the SFSP, food donation avoids unnecessary waste and can save expensive disposal and/or storage costs. Additionally, by partnering with other hunger organizations, SFSP sponsors can expand the reach of these important programs and build networks that better serve their local communities.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this memo, please contact your School Health & Nutrition Specialist at 602-542-8700.

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