



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR KIDS

(Lexington, KY) – The Kentucky Summer Food Service Program is open for business.

At a kickoff event in Lexington today, Kentucky's First Lady told a crowd that the program is making a difference for children in Kentucky.

"During the school year more than a half-million Kentucky students eat breakfast, lunch or both meals at school – often for free or at a reduced price," said First Lady Jane Beshear. "They count on these meals to keep their stomachs full and their minds active, but during the summer months many students are at risk of going undernourished. The Summer Food Service Program provides meals so that many of these children will not go hungry."

This summer, 1,600 sites across 105 Kentucky counties will provide more than 2 million breakfasts, lunches and snacks to more than 20,000 of Kentucky's neediest children as part of the program. Children 18 years old and younger are eligible for the free, nutritious meals.

Lexington Mayor Jim Gray, who also spoke at the kickoff event, was quick to praise the businesses, schools, local government agencies, churches and community organizations that sponsor feeding sites in support of the Summer Food Service Program in Kentucky.

"Local partners are joining forces to build on the federal Summer Food Service Program," Gray said. "Our goal is simple: make sure children have enough to eat this summer."

Mayor Gray said the city of Lexington contributed funds and services to increase awareness of the Summer Food Service Program in his community this year.

More than 150 organizations are partnering to support the Summer Food Service Program in Kentucky.

Many sites welcome volunteers to help serve meals and conduct programming that is often held in conjunction with the feeding programs.

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“I encourage Kentuckians to support this program by sponsoring a site, volunteering time or helping spread the word about the service,” Mrs. Beshear said. “Let’s make certain every child has the food they need to learn, play, grow and prosper when they return to school.”

The Summer Food Service Program is federally funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and is administered by the Kentucky Department of Education, Division of School and Community Nutrition.

If you would like to volunteer in some capacity, please contact Michael Sullivan with the Division of School and Community Nutrition with the Kentucky Department of Education, Michael.sullivan@education.ky.gov, or by phone, (502) 564-5625, ext. 4930.

To locate a feeding site, call the National Hunger Hotline at 1-866-3HUNGRY or 1-866-348-6479.

Another Summer Food Service Program kickoff event will be held tomorrow in the community of Gray in Knox County; the first of the three Kentucky kickoff events was held yesterday in Owensboro.

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