BRIGHT START

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Sonny Perdue
Governor

10 Park Place, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 656-5957

Holly A. Robinson, Ed.D.
Commissioner

Memorandum

To: Summer Food Service Program (SFPS) Sponsors

From: Jackie Romain

Date: July 15, 2009

Re: Excess Summer Meals

The purpose of this memorandum is to encourage Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors to avoid food waste and make use of excess food at summer feeding sites, including by donation of leftover food to other organizations.

SFSP sponsors should make every effort to keep food waste to a minimum. When sites experience situations of leftover food, sponsors should promptly adjust orders to more accurately reflect the actual number of meal service participants. Despite these efforts, however, on occasion, sites may have excess food. In these situations, sponsors should exhaust all alternatives permitted by State and local health and sanitation codes before discarding food. Options may include offering "sharing tables" (stations where children may return whole items that they choose not to eat), transferring meals to other sites, and refrigerating the food for next-day use. Sponsors are also encouraged to consider donating excess food.

Food donations made by SFSP sponsors 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 collaborating with other hunger organizations, SFSP sponsors can expand the reach of these important programs and build networks that better serve the local communities.

For questions concerning this memorandum, please contact Sonja Adams, Policy Administrator at (404) 651-8193.