



Contact: Marybeth Laisure
Telephone: 810.244.8044
Email: mlaisure@ccj-mi.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Center for Civil Justice is Helping Local Programs Feed Children this Summer

BAY CITY, MI – February 28, 2014 – Center for Civil Justice (CCJ) is looking to help out-of-school programs serve nutritious meals to children this summer. CCJ can help eligible schools, non-profit organizations, faith-based groups and libraries apply for federal Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) funding. Applications for Summer 2014 are being accepted from March 1 through May 1 and are processed by the Michigan Department of Education.

“Children who rely on free or reduced-price meals during the school year often find their access to nutritious meals disappears during the summer,” said Marybeth Laisure, Child Nutrition Director for the Center for Civil Justice. “Children get bored easily in the summer, by offering a well-balanced free meal and enrichment activities, sponsors are providing out-of-school opportunities to children keeping them engaged all summer long.”

Last summer more than 3.3 million free meals were provided to Michigan children through the Summer Food Service Program. Approximately, 59,000 Michigan children received a free meal each day during the summer months. This year, Center for Civil Justice would like to increase the number of children served, as well as an increase in programs offering summer meals.

Summer Food Service Program funds meals to children 18 years and younger during the summer school break. Schools and non-profit organizations may qualify for SFSP funding if their program site(s) are in areas where 50 percent of the children qualify for USDA free and reduced-price school meals. All new sponsoring agencies will be required to attend trainings in March and April. The SFSP application is due to the Michigan Department of Education who administers the program on May 1, 2014.

To find out more about applying for the Summer Food Service Program, please contact Marybeth Laisure, Child Nutrition Director for the Center for Civil Justice at 810-244-8044 or email at: mlaisure@ccj-mi.org. Potential sponsors can also visit the Michigan Department of Education’s website for more information and to apply for the summer meal program at: https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-43092_34491---.00.html

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