

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For More Information Contact

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SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE AT 19 NRV SITES

(Christiansburg, Va.) -- Children who rely on their schools for nutritious breakfasts and lunches during the academic year also can receive free, healthy meals and snacks during summer months when school is not in session.

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is now available at a total of 19 locations in Floyd, Giles, Montgomery and Pulaski counties. Meal sites include schools, YMCAs, churches, public parks and a Virginia Tech dining hall. "This is a wonderful service for our young citizens, and good nutrition is fundamental to good health, especially in children," said Molly O'Dell, MD, director of the New River Health District. "We have a broad network of meal sites across the New River Valley, and we want to encourage parents of eligible children to take advantage of these healthy meals this summer."

The Virginia Department of Health, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides SFSP meals at local schools, camps, colleges, government agencies and private non-profit organizations, offering nutritious meals and snacks to low-income children age 18 and under. Nationally, SFSP serves 2 million children each day.

The program is designed to provide supplemental healthy foods during summer months when children cannot receive free and reduced breakfasts and lunches at school. SFSP is promoted by the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children ("WIC"), which provides nutrition education and counseling, breast feeding promotion and support, supplemental foods and screenings and referrals to other health, welfare and social services.

To be eligible for SFSP, applicants must meet categorical, residential, income and nutrition risk requirements.

For more information on SFSP, call 2-1-1 or visit www.whyhunger.org/findfood.

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