



FRAC: Model Afterschool and Summer Advocacy Efforts

Model Program

Anti-Hunger Organization Works with Foundations on the Federal Nutrition Programs **D.C. Hunger Solutions, Washington, D.C.**

Anti-hunger advocates and foundations can be powerful allies in expanding the reach of afterschool and summer nutrition programs. D.C. Hunger Solutions (DCHS), a project of the Food Research and Action Center, saw this first hand when they worked extensively with the Children Youth Investment Trust Corporation, a foundation that provides grants to afterschool programs, and Washington Grantmakers, a coalition of foundations in the D.C. area aimed at helping children and youth, to increase participation in federal nutrition programs. Staff from D.C. Hunger Solutions presented information on the afterschool and summer nutrition programs at the foundations' mandatory grantee meetings and regularly met with individual grantees and program officers to highlight the importance of the nutrition programs and explain how they could help foundations and direct service providers maximize their limited resources.

Working with foundations is important because they can be powerful agents of change and almost every community has a foundation or network of funders that can work with their grantees to promote and expand afterschool and summer nutrition programs.

DCHS encourages the use of federal nutrition programs by highlighting their economic benefits and framing them as "funding opportunities" when talking to funders and grantees. Foundations like to see how using federal dollars to serve snacks or meals allows their money to be put to use in other ways such as hiring additional staff, purchasing more program supplies or offering more fieldtrips for students.

Due to the hard work of D.C. Hunger Solutions, the Children Youth Investment Trust Corporation and Washington Grantmakers now require their summer program grantees to apply for the Summer Food Service Program. Moreover, neither foundation will fund a line item for food that could be paid for by the federal nutrition programs.

Currently, DCHS works with other area funders to distribute materials about the federal nutrition programs to their grantees. One foundation now posts information on their website explaining how organizations can access the afterschool and summer nutrition programs. D.C. Hunger Solutions has also provided funders with summaries of each program that regularly appear in foundation newsletters and materials distributed to grantees.

Connecting local organizations to federal nutrition programs makes sense and benefits everyone involved. Foundations are interested in learning about these programs and how they help maximize the impact of foundation dollars.

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