

## **Sample Newsletter Article**

### **Simplified Summer Food Now Available Nationwide**

Feeding children during the summer time just got easier.

Does your organization serve a lot of children over the summer? Are you wondering how you can provide meals to feed hungry children in your community?

Now is the time to start making plans for the summer. Summer programs that operate in low-income areas or serve primarily low-income children can receive federal funds to provide snacks and meals through the new Simplified Summer Food Program. This program was previously only available in select states but has recently been expanded nationwide. This provides an exciting opportunity to increase the number of children receiving nutritious food during the summer months.

The Simplified Summer Food Program is now available in all states and removes complicated accounting rules that were previously required through the traditional Summer Food Program. This dramatically cuts paperwork and provides sponsors with the full federal reimbursement for each meal they serve.

Schools, local government agencies such as the parks and recreation department, and private nonprofits, such as YMCAs and Boys and Girls Clubs, can participate in the Simplified Summer Food Program. Sites can also be located at low-income housing complexes, parks, churches and other places where children congregate during the summer. To qualify, a site must either be located in a low-income area (where 50 percent or more of the children in the area are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals), or serve primarily low-income children (at least half of the children enrolled in the program are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals).

Sites can provide up to two meals a day. Camps and sites serving primarily migrant children can provide up to three meals a day, but they qualify under slightly different rules.

To participate in the Simplified Summer Food Program, contact your state child nutrition agency. State agency contact information is available at [www.frac.org/summer](http://www.frac.org/summer).