

FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICE

10910 Clarksville Pike • Ellicott City, MD 21042 • 410-313-6738



June 1, 2018

Dear Community Partner

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Howard County Public School System's (HCPSS) FY18 Open Site Summer Meals Program, which will begin on Monday, June 25, 2018 and end on Friday, August 17, 2018. All children under 18 years of age will receive a free meal at Laurel Woods ES, Talbot Springs ES, Harper's Choice MS, Oakland Mills MS and Howard County Library - East Columbia Branch. Parents or guardians do not need to apply to get free summer meals for their children.

Childhood food insecurity remains at unacceptable levels across the country and children are most acutely at risk during the summer, when they do not have access to school meals. In 2015, about 3.8 million children received summer meals - far fewer than the 21 million children who receive free or reduced price lunches through the National School Lunch Program during the school year. This means that during the summer we are not reaching the vast majority of children who rely on school meals to meet their nutritional needs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) operates Summer Meal Programs to address this problem, and we are requesting your help to increase participation of children and make access to summer meals a priority for children in our communities.

Our FY18 Summer Meals Program needs champions. We believe that your organization can help reach out and connect families with summer meals and continue to make a difference in the lives of our students after the school year ends. Please help us feed more children in our County when school is not in session by being a champion for summer meals. Please also share the attached flyer within your group(s).

Thank you, as always, for your dedication and commitment to our children.

If you have any questions, please contact HCPSS Food and Nutrition Service at 410-313-7134 or at www.hcpss.org/food-services.

Sincerely

Brian Ralph

Brian Ralph,
Director, Food and Nutrition Service

cc: Mr. James LeMon, Executive Director of Community, Parent and School Outreach
Ms. Mary Schiller, Partnerships Office Manager

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.