



Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
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MEDIA RELEASE

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Summer Food Program Begins for Area Kids

Rockford – Nutritious meals will again be available to children at 38 sites in Winnebago and Boone Counties through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). These sites are non-profit organizations and local recreation centers that are either in close proximity to a school where over 50% of the children receive free/reduced lunch, or the sites serve a group of children where most of them are from low-income families. SFSP enables these sites to offer nutritious lunches and snacks to children ages 18 and under as part of their summer programming.

“Last year, SFSP provided free lunches and snacks to 3,159 children in Winnebago County and 28 children in Boone County and, for many, that was their only meal of the day,” reported Christopher Greenwood, Community Health and Prevention Coordinator for the City of Rockford Human Services Department, the Community Action Agency which manages the program locally.

“According to a 2011 study by Feeding America, 18,420 children in Winnebago County and 3,540 in Boone County do not have consistent access to enough food needed for a healthy, active life,” Greenwood continued. “Also, while some children in poverty may appear well-fed on the surface, their families often are able to purchase only the most inexpensive food, which frequently is not the most nutrient dense. While the SFSP program is an important component in meeting the nutritional needs of our children, the problem of hunger and/or poor nutrition is complex and pervasive.”

Food insecurity—the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food—exists in 17.2 million households in America, 3.9 million of them with children. During the school year, about 31 million American children receive school meals through the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program every day. About 21 million of those children receive meals at a discounted rate or for free, based on their family’s income. However, only about 3.5 million of these children participate in USDA’s summer meals programs.

Lack of nutrition during the summer months may set up a cycle for poor performance once school begins again. Hunger also may make children more prone to illness and other health issues. The Summer Food Service Program is designed to fill that nutrition gap and make sure children are kept nourished and engaged.

The Summer Food Service Program is operated nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), administered by the Illinois State Board of Education, and managed locally by the City of Rockford Human Services Department, a Community Action Agency. The lunches and snacks are provided by Lifescape Community Services of Rockford.

2014 Summer Food Sites for Winnebago and Boone Counties

Residents should contact the participating sites for their individual program details.

Rockford

All Nations Worship Center, 4747 W. Riverside Blvd.
Beattie Playground, 1221 Rural St.
Beyer Elementary School, 333 - 15th Ave.
Blackhawk Boys & Girls Club, 330 - 15th Ave.
Bloom Playground, 2901 Pelham Rd.
Booker Washington, 524 Kent St
Churchill Park, 2002 – 7th Ave.
Elliot Playground, 988 S. Lyford Rd.
Fairgrounds Valley, 1015 W. Jefferson
First Evangelical Covenant Church, 316 Wood Rd.
Flodin Boys & Girls Club, 1000 Mill Rd.
Harmon Park, 1928 East Gate Parkway
Highland Park, 3011 Rural St.
KenRock Community Center, 3218 – 11th St.
Keye-Mallquist Park, 1702 – 11th St.
Northwest Community Center, 1325 N. Johnston Ave.
Orton Keyes Community Center, 633 Ranger St.
Patriots Gateway Center, 615 S. 5th St.
RESA Youth & Teen Program, 1800 Ogilby Rd.
Ridge Park, 3317 Ridge Ave.
Rockford Boys & Girls Club at Second Congregational Church, 318 N. Church St.
Rockford Park District at Lewis Lemon, 1993 Mulberry St.
Sabrooke Playground, 2900 Kishwaukee St.
St. Elizabeth Community Center, 1536 S. Main St.
St. Paul Church of God in Christ, 1001 Bishop Washington Way
Salvation Army, 210 Kilburn Ave.
Sawyer Playground, 2249 Sawyer Rd.
Washington Park Recreation Center, 3617 Delaware St.
YMCA (Downtown), 200 Y Blvd.
YMCA Camp Winnebago, 5804 N. Main St.
YMCA – Teen Reach, 1536 S. Main St.

Loves Park

Carlson Boys and Girls Club, 1028 Evans Ave.
Wantz Park, 600 Clifford Ave.
YMCA Northeast Branch, 8451 Orth Rd.

Belvidere

First Presbyterian Church, 221 N. Main St.

Ida Public Library, 320 N. State St.

St. John's United Church of Christ, 401 N. Main St.

South Beloit

South Beloit Boys and Girls Club, 1161 Dorr Rd.

In accordance with Federal Law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, the City of Rockford and the participating summer food sites are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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