



June 1, 2005

Media Advisory

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FREE lunch for San Francisco kids this summer!

"Summer Meals for Kids" program aims to feed 14,000 children daily

WHAT:

Last summer, 10,000 San Francisco youth were fed lunch each weekday by the Summer Meals for Kids program. This year, the program plans to serve more than 14,000 youth daily at over 120 summer school sites and community centers throughout the City. Summer Meals for Kids is a partnership between the San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF); the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD); the San Francisco Food Bank; and United Way's HELPLINK.

WHY:

Many children who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches during the school year are not aware that they can also get free, nutritious lunches during the summer. During the summer of 2003, only 16% of 35,000 eligible San Francisco children received a free lunch. Fortunately, efforts to increase access and participation last summer were successful, boosting the percentage of children receiving free lunches to 25% during the summer of 2004. This year, we're aiming to boost that percentage by another 15% -- **Media are encouraged to help spread the word!**

WHO:

The Summer Meals for Kids program provides free meals to San Francisco children across the City. All children under the age of 18 living in the City of San Francisco are eligible.

WHERE:

More than 120 summer schools and community sites in San Francisco. For information about lunch sites, serving times and dates, please call United Way's HELPLINK:

800-273-6222 (English)
415-808-4444 (Spanish)
415-808-7399 (Chinese)

WHEN:

The program will begin serving free lunches on June 20; information about locations and times is available now through United Way's HELPLINK (phone numbers above).

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