



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Potential 2010 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and
Seamless Summer Food Program (SSFP) Sponsors

FROM: Cheryl Resha, Education Manager *Cheryl Resha*
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

DATE: April 22, 2010

SUBJECT: **Operational Memorandum #05-10 SFSP and #11-10 SSFP**
Department of Social Services Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF) Application

Each summer, millions of families struggle to provide their children with nutritious meals when schools close for the summer and no longer provide meals through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Although the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) SFSP is intended to fill this gap, less than 20 percent of the more than 19.6 million children receiving a free or reduced price meal from the National School Lunch Program participate in the SFSP. In these difficult economic times, even more children may face this hardship in the coming summer.

We want to highlight an opportunity to leverage available Federal funds to address childhood hunger and food insecurity by improving participation in the SFSP. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 established a \$5 billion TANF ECF. States can seek 80 percent reimbursement through the Fund for costs in a set of areas, including increased costs for non-recurrent, short-term benefit expenditures, which are designed to deal with a needy family's specific crisis situation or need, and do not extend beyond four months. A range of expenditures that support programs that feed children during summer months may constitute non-recurrent, short-term benefits, and thus be a potential use of the TANF ECF.

A number of organizations, including schools, local governments (particularly Parks and Recreation Departments), community organizations, camps, and faith-based organizations, might choose to operate or expand a summer food service program if additional resources beyond those currently funded by the USDA's SFSP are made available. TANF ECF can be used for a set of expenditures to support their participation in the program, and to help meet a set of costs at existing sites. For example, allowable TANF expenses could include: short-term leased or rented equipment; transportation services to transport food and/or children to feeding sites; recreational activities to attract more youth to program locations; pay for staff support to provide supervision and programming at summer feeding sites; and meal preparation costs that are not otherwise reimbursed under the SFSP (including the cost of additional meals and meals provided to parents of SFSP eligible children).

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Additional information and guidance on the TANF ECF can be found on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Web site at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/>, and information about the SFSP can be found on the USDA's Web site at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/summer/>.

Attached please find the Application to Connecticut's Department of Social Services for Connecticut's TANF ECF Program (Phase 2) which includes:

Part 1: Program Narrative Information

Part 2: TANF Program Requirements and Certification

Part 3: Memorandum of Understanding

Part 4: Quarterly Expenditures FFY 2007-10

- A. Base Year Quarterly Expenditures FFY 2007 & FFY 2008 (10/1/06–09/30/08)
- B. Retroactive Quarterly Expenditures FFY 2009 (10/1/08–09/30/09)
- C. Retroactive Quarterly Expenditures FFY 2010 – 1st & 2nd Quarters (10/1/09–03/31/10)
- D. Projection of Quarterly Expenditure 2010 – 3rd Quarter (04/1/10-6/30/10)
- E. Projection & Request for Advance of Quarterly Expenditure 2010 – 4th Quarter (7/1/10-9/30/10)

The application and required documentation must be submitted to julie.bisi@ct.gov, Connecticut Department of Social Services, Family Services Division, no later than **April 28, 2010, at 11:59 p.m.** The e-mail subject line **must** read **“TANF ECF April 2010 Application”**.

Due to the short turnaround time, interested sponsors may contact Dawn Crayco, Child Nutrition Program Director, End Hunger CT! at 860-560-2100 ext. 303 for additional guidance and assistance on completing the application. Questions pertaining to the Summer Food Service Program may be directed to Susan Bohuslaw at 860-807-2073 or susan.bohuslaw@ct.gov or Robert Zwack at 860-807-2081 or robert.zwack@ct.gov. Questions pertaining to the Seamless Summer Food Program may be directed to Fionnuala Brown at 860-807-2048 or fionnuala.brown@ct.gov.

We hope that you give serious consideration to using some of these resources to help struggling families and children this summer. Thank you for your hard work and commitment to those in need.

CR:sbb

Enclosures: (4)

Important: This is a numbered Operational Memorandum that contains important program information. Please read carefully and retain in a binder for your future reference. Operational Memoranda are also posted on the Child Nutrition website at: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=321576>