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NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM TO BE OFFERED TO CHILDREN DURING THE SUMMER

Organizations interested in participating in the 2006 Summer Food Service Program for children may apply to the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The program, financed through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, provides free meals to children from needy areas and is designed to initiate, maintain, and expand nonprofit food programs for children during the summer months.

Peter McWalters, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, announced that the Summer Food Service Program for Children, similar to that provided under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, would be offered to children during summer school vacation.

To participate in the summer program, sponsors must be public or private nonprofit school-food authorities, organizations, residential summer camps, nonresidential day camps, or units of local or state governments. To be approved, a site must serve an area with at least 50 percent of the children eligible for free or reduced-price meals or it must qualify as a residential camp or a nonresidential day camp. Meals must be made available to all children enrolled in the program without regard to race, sex, color, national origin, age, religion, or disability.

Anyone wishing further information on the program may call the Rhode Island Department of Education, Office of School Support and Family Engagement, at 222-8936.