

TO: Tom Markus, Lawrence City Manager  
CC: Diane Stoddard, Lawrence Assistant City Manager  
DATE: 7/11/2016  
FROM: Michael Showalter, Health Promotion Specialist, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department  
RE: Cities Combating Hunger through Afterschool and Summer Meal Programs (CHAMPS) grant opportunity

Kansas currently ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation for feeding kids through the federal Summer Food Service Program. The League of Cities and the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) have issued a request for proposals for the 2016-2017 Cities Combating Hunger through Afterschool and Summer Meal Programs (CHAMPS) grant. The grant, which is open to eligible city agencies in three states including Kansas, is an initiative to help cities reduce childhood hunger in their communities by extending participation in the federal Afterschool and Summer Meal Programs. The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department is seeking to apply as the representative agency for The City of Lawrence to receive grant funds up to \$40,000.

The 2013 Community Health Plan developed by the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department identified two key strategies to improve access to healthy foods for Lawrence and Douglas County: 1) improve the nutrition environment for children birth to age 18 (including schools, child care settings and before/after-school programs); and 2) enhance access to healthy food for low-income families. The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) are two federal programs that seek to help local communities do just that.

According to the Kansas Department of Education, 36.48% of USD 497's 11,840 students qualified for free or reduced-price meals in 2014-2015. More than 50% of students in eight Lawrence schools qualified for free or reduced-price lunches during this period. However, for every 100 students served a free lunch during the regular school year, only 28 received free lunch during the summer. That's nearly 75% of qualifying Lawrence students who are missed each meal.

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department will work with the Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority, Lawrence Parks and Recreation, K-State Research and Extension, Lawrence Public Schools, the Douglas County Food Policy Council and the City of Lawrence to utilize CHAMPS funding to: 1) develop a focus group tasked with identifying key barriers to Summer Meal Program participation; 2) identify additional linkages to education, physical activity and entertainment opportunities to help improve participation; 3) further develop key partnerships in order to create new Summer Meal Program sites with improved access.

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