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JAMES R. WELLS
*Deputy Superintendent Administrative
and Fiscal Services*

July 8, 2009

Memorandum

SFSP-2009-02

TO: Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Sponsors

FROM: Karen L. Vogel, RD, SNS
Nutrition Programs Consultant

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen L. Vogel".

RE: Excess Summer Meals

Sponsors should make every effort to keep food waste to a minimum. When sites experience situations of leftover food, sponsors should promptly adjust orders to more accurately reflect the actual number of meal service participants. Despite these efforts, however, on occasion, sites may have excess food. In this situation, sponsors should exhaust all alternatives permitted by State and local health and sanitation codes before discarding food. Options may include offering "sharing tables," transferring meals to other sites, and refrigerating the food for next-day use. Sponsors are also encouraged to consider donating excess food.

Food donations made by SFSP sites can provide a valuable resource to organizations working to address hunger in local communities, such as homeless shelters, food banks, and pantries. Although donated meals may not be claimed for reimbursement in the SFSP, food donation avoids unnecessary waste and can save expensive disposal and/or storage costs. Additionally, by collaborating with other hunger organizations, SFSP sponsors can expand the reach of these important programs and build networks that better serve the local communities.

KLW/tk

SFSP 2009-04, 06/26/09