

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

June 22, 2015

**Contact:**

**Sylvia Soublet**  
Public Affairs Director  
Office: (510) 267-9434  
Mobile: (510) 207-2074  
Fax: (510) 271-9120  
ssoublet@acgov.org

**AN APPETITE TO SERVE:  
Alameda County Social Services Agency Serving Free Summer Lunch to Kids & Teens,  
June 24 – August 13, 2015**

Oakland, CA (June 22, 2015)—For one out of three children in Alameda County's low-income households, the threat of hunger is real all year around, but even greater in the summer. Nearly two million of California's most vulnerable children fall into "[the summer nutrition gap](#)," with over 80 percent of the state's low-income children and youth who benefited from free or reduced-price lunches during the academic year missing out during the summer. Alameda County has identified [15 neighborhoods](#) with child poverty rates above 50 percent and another 36 neighborhoods where the child poverty rate exceeds 32 percent. Lack of nutritious meals during the summer months can contribute to hunger, illness, and other health issues, such as obesity.

"I am proud of the fact that the Alameda County Social Services Agency is the only County human service agency throughout the state to participate in the Summer Food Service Program. I think it is important to meet the needs of families where they access services. Providing nutritious meals for children in the same place where their parents apply for CalFresh benefits just makes sense to me. No child should have to look back one day and recall that hunger was their prevailing experience," says Lori A. Cox, Social Services Agency Director.

Fueled by last year's successful free summer lunch program for kids and teens, the Alameda County Social Services Agency's appetite to serve has grown based on the overwhelming need for free, hot, nutritious summer meals—three additional sites have been added with expanded service hours.

The Agency is participating for a second year with the California Department of Education's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). SFSP aims to alleviate the nutrition gap during the summer months for children living in geographic areas where at least 50 percent of the students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price school meals. SFSP sites include schools, camps, Indian tribal governments, private non-profit agencies, as well as municipal, state, county, or local government offices.

Free lunch for children ages 18 and under will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis at three of the Agency's offices, as well as at a community partner site:

Wednesday, June 24 through Thursday, August 13, 2015  
Weekdays 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
(except for Friday, July 3 - offices are closed in observance of Independence Day)

Eastmont Self-Sufficiency Center  
6955 Foothill Blvd, Suite 100 • Oakland, 94605  
1st floor - Patio area

Eden Area Multi-Service Center  
24100 Amador St • Hayward, 94544  
1st floor - Room 118

Healthy Oakland  
2572 San Pablo Ave • Oakland, 94612

Thomas L. Berkley Self-Sufficiency Center  
2000 San Pablo Ave • Oakland, 94612  
2nd floor - Client Break Room

Hot, nutritious lunches will be prepared by Revolution Foods, which was launched in 2006 in Oakland, CA and now serves more than 1 million healthy and kid-inspired meals weekly in schools across the nation. The menu will change daily and include hot offerings--like firecracker chicken with sesame noodles, pasta with zesty beef, and cheesy quesadillas--while meeting nutritional standards set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

###

For more information, visit <http://www.alamedasocialservices.org/public/services/community/summerLunch.cfm>

*Non-Discrimination Statement: USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.*

*Like us on [Facebook](#).*

*Follow us on [Twitter](#).*