

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**THIS SUMMER'S SPECIAL: Alameda County Social Services Agency Serving Free Lunch to Kids & Teens,
June 23 – August 11, 2016**

Oakland, CA (June 16, 2016)-Hunger among low-income children is a year round problem that looms even larger during the summer when school is out. Going to bed hungry and waking up to another day of food insecurity is a reality for one out of three children in Alameda County's low-income households. 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 illness, poor academic retention and other health issues, such as obesity.

For a third year, the Alameda County Social Services Agency is the ONLY Social/Human Service Agency in the State of California to participate as a sponsor organization in the California Department of Education's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), offering free lunch to kids and teens as part of its menu of services. 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.

The Social Services Agency is also partnering with the REACH Ashland Youth Center in San Leandro and Youth Uprising in Oakland to serve lunch to youth from the general public. "We are excited to broaden the reach of the lunch program to the teen population in Alameda County," says Lori A. Cox, Social Services Agency Director. "Summertime should be an opportunity for growth and exploration; hunger should not be a part of that experience. I am proud that the SSA has lead the effort statewide among county social/human services agencies in bridging the summer meal insecurity gap for low income children. Feeding hungry children at our office locations and in the community is a natural evolution of our services and a manifestation of our mission statement."

Free lunch for children and ages 18 and under will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis:

Thursday, June 23 through Thursday, August 11, 2016

Weekdays 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

(except for Monday, July 4 - offices are closed in observance of Independence Day)

LOCATIONS

Eastmont Self-Sufficiency Center

6955 Foothill Blvd, Ste 100

Oakland, 94605

(1st floor - Patio area)

Youth Uprising

8711 MacArthur Blvd

Oakland, 94605

Eden Area Multi-Service Center

24100 Amador St

Hayward, 94544

(1st floor - Room 118)

REACH Ashland Youth Center

16335 E 14th St

San Leandro, 94578

Thomas L. Berkley Self-Sufficiency Center

2000 San Pablo Ave

Oakland, 94612

(2nd floor)

This site will also serve lunch on June 20, 21, 22, and Aug 12 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

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 whole grain pizza, chicken teriyaki, and cheesy quesadillas--while meeting nutritional standards set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

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

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