

The 2016 Western Region Summer Sunshine Awards

Nomination Instructions

The *Summer Sunshine Awards* recognize the outstanding achievements of individuals and groups who, through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)/National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Seamless Summer Option (SSO), provide nutritious meals to children during the summer months in the Western Region states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

A. Eligible Applicants and Award Categories

I. Outstanding Sponsor

Western Region Office (WRO) will accept nominations of sponsors operating either the SFSP or NSLP Seamless Summer Option in the following five categories:

1. Successful and Innovative Community Partnerships
2. Reaching Rural, Tribal and/or Underserved Communities
3. Providing Enrichment Activities
4. Bringing the Farm to Summer Meals
5. Strategies to Improve Meal Quality

Sponsors may submit a self-nomination or be nominated by another party. The application/entry form on the following page contains detailed information on each award category. The application/nomination should designate the *one* (and only one) award category that most signifies a sponsor's achievements.

II. Outstanding Partner/Summer Champion

WRO will accept nominations of organizations that have partnered with sponsors or the state agency to act as a community or state champion of the SFSP/SSO. The state agency, sponsor or partner group may submit a nomination. The partner nomination form contains detailed information. The nomination should clearly describe actions taken by the partner that demonstrate they are a champion to the program.

B. How to Apply for the Sunshine Awards and Deadlines

Please submit nominations using the applicable *2016 Summer Sunshine Awards Entry Form* contained in this application package to submit nominations. The application must effectively present the sponsor's/partner's accomplishments and other noteworthy achievements in the specific award category noted on the application.

Nominations must be submitted to SFSP/SSO State agencies by the due date established by the State Agency. State agencies must then forward all nominations to the WRO no later than **October 7, 2016**.

C. Application and Evaluation Process

I. Sponsor Nominations: Sponsors or others submitting a nomination(s)/application(s) must ensure the application is complete. Nominations should incorporate sufficient information to effectively evaluate the accomplishments under the appropriate category. Narratives that can clearly illustrate how the particular program or activity is innovative, sustainable, cost effective, and transferable receive the highest consideration.

Scoring for sponsor award categories is based on the five areas listed below:
(1 = lowest score to 10 = highest score; Total Maximum Score: **50 points**)

- **Innovation (1-10 points)** How innovative was the program in achieving its goals?
- **Sustainable (1-10 points)** How sustainable is the program over time?
- **Cost-Effective (1-10 points)** Does the program make good use of available resources and cost-saving practices--e.g., partners with other entities, use of non-program resources such as volunteers?
- **Transferable (1-10 points)** Can others easily replicate or transfer the program?
- **Presentation (1-10 points)** How complete, detailed, organized and well-presented is the nomination?

Additionally, sponsors applying to category 5 “Strategies to Improve Meal Quality” will be evaluated based on evidence supported by submission of one monthly menu and one week’s worth of production records.

The *2016 Western Region Summer Sunshine Awards* committee will select award winning sponsors in the following five categories:

1. Successful and Innovative Community Partnerships

This award will go to a sponsor(s) that collaborated with other organizations to strengthen their Summer Food Service Program/Seamless Summer Option in local communities. Examples of successful community partnerships include working with other organizations to assist with SFSP/SSO promotion efforts, program operations, or to provide activities for participants.

2. Reaching Rural, Tribal and/or Underserved Communities

This award will go to a sponsor(s) who started or expanded the SFSP/SSO for a distinct population of children or in a challenging community (such as rural/tribal/underserved). In this category, we will consider any sponsor/group that started or supported the expansion of summer meals to a specific population of children or rural/tribal/underserved community.

3. Providing Enrichment Activities

This award will go to a sponsor(s) with demonstrated commitment to providing enrichment activities such as physical and nutrition education, summer learning, and/or wellness promotion. A successful nominee would have incorporated enrichment activities as an integral part of their program design and offered them throughout the summer to help establish healthy eating, physical activity, and learning habits.

4. **Bringing the Farm to Summer Meals**

This award will go to a sponsor(s) that incorporated farm to summer strategies to serve locally or regionally produced foods and/or provided related hands-on learning activities at summer sites. In this category, we will consider any sponsor(s) that implemented innovative local procurement strategies, incorporated opportunities to connect children and/or their families with where and how their food is produced, and/or demonstrated creative partnerships to bring the farm to summer sites.

Examples of hands-on activities include growing or visiting an edible garden, taking a farm field trip, hosting an educational session with a farmer/producer at a summer site, or conducting taste tests or cooking demonstrations featuring local bounty. Learn more here:

http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/f2s/FactSheet_Farm_to_Summer.pdf

5. **Strategies to Improve Meal Quality**

This award recognizes sponsor(s) that incorporated strategies to improve meal quality in their sites. Examples include providing training on healthy menu planning and food preparation, increasing scratch cooking, improving the variety of healthy menu options offered at summer meals, and creating SFSP/SSO environments and policies that facilitate children's healthy food choices. *Sponsors applying to this award should include one monthly menu and one week's worth of production records.*

II. Partner Nominations: There are no specific categories for partner nominations. Narratives that clearly describe how the partner helped improve the impact and/or reach of summer meals programs will receive the highest consideration.

D. Notification of Winners

WRO will notify winners in writing within 90 days after the October 7th due date. Selected nominees and category winners may be featured in national, regional and/or statewide publications or invited to participate in local meetings promoting the SFSP/SSO. Please be aware that there is no monetary compensation for these awards.

E. Questions and Additional Information

Any inquiries regarding these awards should be directed to the State agency submitting the nomination(s). State agency contacts are as follows:

Alaska: Alicia Maryott - Alicia.Maryott@alaska.gov
Arizona: Melissa Conner - Melissa.Conner@azed.gov
California: Vince Keene - VKeene@cde.ca.gov
Hawaii: Jennifer Dang - Jennifer_Dang@notes.k12.hi.us
Idaho: Angela Kraft - AKraft@sde.idaho.gov
Nevada: Tammy Kratz - TKratz@agri.nv.gov
Oregon: Lynne Reinoso - Lynne.Reinoso@state.or.us
Washington: Jennifer Mitchell - Jennifer.Mitchell@k12.wa.us