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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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****Press Release****

DCYF CELEBRATES 21st ANNIVERSARY OF FREE SUMMER MEALS PROGRAM FOR SAN FRANCISCO CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Sites in every San Francisco neighborhood will serve free lunches and snacks to anyone under age 18 from June 7 through August 17.

San Francisco, CA – This summer the San Francisco Free Summer Meals Program will celebrate more than two decades of serving free, healthy lunches and snacks to San Francisco children and youth during the months that school is not in session. Sponsored by the US Department of Agriculture and administered locally by the San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Their Families (DCYF), 85 sites in every San Francisco neighborhood will offer free lunches and afternoon snacks to children and youth ages 18 and under every Monday through Friday from June 7 to August 17. No proof of need, registration, or identification is required in order to receive a lunch or snack. The only requirement: arrive at a designated site during any open site's serving time.

"Providing universal meal access for our children and youth when school is not in session will help ensure that no child will go hungry in San Francisco this summer," said DCYF Executive Director Maria Su. "The Summer Meals Program has proven to be a successful initiative in the City's efforts to combat food insecurity, and DCYF is proud to partner with SFUSD, the USDA, our nonprofit partners, and our vendors to provide this valuable resource to San Francisco's children and youth." This year DCYF will collaborate with the San Francisco Unified School District to supply free summer lunches and snacks to children and youth, increasing the total number of free lunch and snack sites throughout the City to nearly 100 sites. Last year, San Francisco's Free Summer Lunch Program sites served over 13,000 children and youth every weekday, and served nearly 170,000 free summer meals.

A complete list of program sites, addresses, and serving times is available on the home page of the DCYF website: www.dcyf.org. Families can also find lunch and snack sites by calling the San Francisco Services Call Center at 3-1-1 or the United Way Helpline at 2-1-1. Brochures that list the Free Summer Lunch Program sites have been translated into Spanish, Chinese, and Filipino, and are available on the DCYF website and at the DCYF office. Over 35,000 Free Summer Lunch Program brochures have been distributed to the San Francisco Unified School District and the San Francisco Human Service Agency's CalFresh offices.

DCYF partners with the USDA Summer Food Service Program, the California Department of Education, Revolution Foods, the Board of Supervisor's Food Security Task Force, the Summer Meals Coalition, SFUSD, City departments, and nonprofit organizations to administer the Summer Meals Program. DCYF also employs trained program monitors to conduct regulatory visits at all serving sites throughout the summer.

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Department of Children, Youth and Their Families

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About DCYF

The San Francisco Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families (DCYF) is the City agency that leads the people of San Francisco's powerful investments in children, youth, transitional age youth, and their families since 1991. As stewards of the Children and Youth Fund, we bring together government, schools, and community-based organizations to strengthen our communities to lead full lives of opportunity and happiness striving to make San Francisco, an even greater place to grow up. We are a strong voice at the heart of San Francisco's commitment to advancing equity and healing trauma. For more information, please visit www.dcyf.org

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