



## **Kids, After School, and Healthy Snacks: New Partnerships with Food Banks**

After-school sites have doubled in California in the past year, thanks to an infusion of state dollars, and all are required to provide a healthy snack. Food banks can be a resource to after-school programs, through their partnerships with federal nutrition programs and their increasing distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables. Additionally, the California Association of Food Banks (CAFB) can provide technical assistance and advocacy coordination to increase participation in snacks. Taken together, these efforts can help increase the number of low-income California kids receiving a healthy after-school snack.

### 1. Free Healthy Food

Many food banks are now providing free, healthy snacks – often including fresh fruit – to after-school sites. There are several models:

#### **Los Angeles: Los Angeles Regional Food Bank**

[www.lafoodbank.org](http://www.lafoodbank.org)

The food bank provides free snacks to 14 sites serving 1000 kids daily. The snack includes three components, one of which is fresh produce, and the costs are reimbursed by the federal government (USDA) through the California Department of Education (CDE). *Contact:* Jeff Dronkers

#### **Sonoma: Redwood Empire Food Bank**

[www.refb.org](http://www.refb.org)

The food bank provides free snacks to 29 sites, including 8 Boys and Girls Clubs in Petaluma. The snack includes three-four components, one of which is always fresh fruit, and is reimbursed by the federal government. *Contact:* Gail Atkins

#### **Santa Clara/San Mateo: Second Harvest Food Bank**

[www.shfoodbank.com](http://www.shfoodbank.com)

Beginning in fall 2007, this food bank is offering free snacks, through the federal nutrition programs, to after-school sites in both Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. *Contact:* Cindy McCown

#### **San Francisco: San Francisco Food Bank**

[www.sffoodbank.org](http://www.sffoodbank.org)

This food bank works in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Youth, Children and Families, which sponsors the federal after-school nutrition programs, to vend a snack consisting of three components, including fresh fruit. *Contact:* Marguerite Nowak

**Contra Costa/Solano: Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano** [www.foodbankccs.org](http://www.foodbankccs.org)  
“Farm 2 Kids” is this food bank’s program providing fresh fruits and vegetables at no cost to over 20 sites in Bay Point, Concord, Fairfield, Pittsburg and Vacaville. *Contact:* Lindsay Johnson

## 2. Technical Assistance

For after-school sites seeking a partner to provide free healthy food through the federal nutrition programs, the California Association of Food Banks, in conjunction with the national Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), can provide technical assistance. Potential partners include food banks, but also schools, city governments and parks and recreation departments, and other community groups; after-school snacks can be provided through the federal National School Lunch Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and California’s Community Child Nutrition Pilot (also known as year-round summer food). A new guide from FRAC, “Making the Most of Child Nutrition Funding: A Guide for After-School Education and Nutrition Grantees” is posted at: [www.frac.org/CA\\_Guide/](http://www.frac.org/CA_Guide/)

## 3. Advocacy

To provide snacks that are even more nutritious, more appealing, and more adequate for hungry kids, increased federal funding is needed. The funding is now 68 cents per snack. One solution is to bring the federal “After-School Supper Pilot” to California. Currently in operation in 7 states, the pilot provides additional reimbursement for a more well-balanced snack, and allows programs to also serve youth 13-18. In spring 2007, CAFB helped recruit 70 California groups to sign-on to a letter to the State’s Congressional delegation in support of the pilot. The letter is posted at: [www.cafoodbanks.org/AfterSchoolandSummerNutritionCASignonLetter.pdf](http://www.cafoodbanks.org/AfterSchoolandSummerNutritionCASignonLetter.pdf)

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