



STEVEN M. FULOP
MAYOR OF JERSEY CITY

CITY OF JERSEY CITY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY HALL | 280 GROVE STREET | JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302
P: 201 547 5500 | F: 201 547 5442



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Contact: Jennifer Morrill
Press Secretary
201-547-4836
201-376-0699

***Jersey City One of Ten Cities Nationwide to Receive Grant
from the National League of Cities for Summer &
Afterschool Meal Programs; Funding Will Enhance Jersey
City's Efforts to Reduce Food Insecurity***

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** announced today that the **National League of Cities** named Jersey City as one of ten cities nationwide to receive a \$50,000 grant to create programs to provide school children with afterschool and summer meals. The meals are provided by organizations who service after school children.

Jersey City's Department of Health and Human Services is working to incorporate more afterschool and summer sites under its umbrella and more comprehensively address the issue of food insecurity among youth.

“Expansion of Afterschool Meal Programs helps to strengthen the City's reach into our communities, as well as empower organizations to strengthen the quality and delivery of their other positive youth development programs,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “Access to healthy foods is important for our youth as they develop both physically and academically. We will continue to seek federal grant funds that help us expand this type of programming.”

The grants are part of a National League of Cities effort that served 7.5 million meals over the last 2.5 years under the program.

In addition to \$50,000, Jersey City will receive customized technical assistance, access to best practices and national experts, and opportunities for peer learning as they build and expand programs to bring meals to children.

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In April, Jersey City announced the rollout of the **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)** at seven schools throughout Jersey City. This is a need-based United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) program, which provides meals to school age children enrolled in after school programs for free or at a reduced cost.

HHS is the first City-run CACFP program in the State. HHS will began with the youth component and eventually expects to expand to the adult population (senior citizens).

“The cities chosen should be commended for their commitment and willingness to do the hard work to reduce child hunger in their communities,” **said Clarence Anthony, Executive Director at the National League of Cities.** “We know that when children don’t have access to quality meals it affects their ability to learn and their classroom participation. It is imperative that more cities take advantage of federal resources to implement programs that give children access to meals.”

Jersey City was one of ten cities selected as part of a new technical assistance cohort. The additional nine cities include:

- Chattanooga, TN
- El Centro, CA
- Fontana, CA
- Longmont, CO
- New Haven, CT
- Pasadena, CA
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Portland, ME
- Newark, NJ

Afterschool and summer meal programs fill an enormous need for families as nearly one in four American families with children suffered from food hardship within the last year. City officials have provided invaluable leadership in creating citywide systems of afterschool and summer programming and developing anti-hunger awareness campaigns.

The grants are part of the National League of Cities’ Institute for Youth, Education & Families’ initiative: Cities Combating Hunger Through Afterschool and Summer Meal Programs. CHAMPS is made possible by a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation and in partnership with Food Research and Action Center.

The cities were chosen based on their commitment to and experience in launching or expanding local efforts to create year-round meal opportunities for children through the federal Afterschool and Summer meal programs.

The National League of Cities (NLC) is dedicated to helping city leaders build better communities. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Steven M. Fulop at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.////