Best Practices for the Summer Food Service Program: from a housing provider prospective

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Sites

- **Sandston Woods Apartments (Sandston Woods, VA)**
  - 40-unit family property
  - Served breakfast and lunch (3 days per week)
  - Site Supervisor was the real estate site manager

- **Birch Island Apartments (Wakefield, VA)**
  - 48-unit family property
  - Program developed organically by manager
  - Served lunch (5 days per week)
  - Site supervisors were dependable residents
Fundamentals

- **Support from Top Management**
  - Attend opening day to assist
  - Make a financial commitment
  - Be prepared to have other area managers assist

- **Committed Managers**
  - Managers must feel strongly about the program
  - Occupancy cannot suffer, extra effort on the part of manager

- **Relationship with Food Service Provider**
  - Visit facility
  - Ask for advice and assistance
  - Get trained
Recommendations

• Do not overcommit
  - Breakfast
  - Lunch

• Consistent Programming
  - Everyday
  - End on time

• Make this a Resident program
  - Must have leadership
  - Multiple volunteers
Site Responsibilities

• Open to all eligible children
  o Guest
  o Community
  o Turn no child away hungry

• Be prepared
  o Delivery of food-storage
  o Scheduling move-ins and re-certifications
  o Extra Refrigeration

• Include activities
  o Make one day an activity day
    • Reading
    • Games
    • Prizes
    • FUN
• Publicize the program

• Have a good time
  o Develop a relationship with the residents
  o Institute new program at return to school time (Afterschool Meals Program)
  o Reap the benefits

Summer lunch service aims to fight hunger

Local arm of USDA program plans to feed dozens every day

BY LAURA BEASER

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's summer lunch program at Sandstone Woods Apartments in eastern Henrico County Tuesday was an example of a federal, state and local partnership to combat childhood hunger in the summer.

Families of 30 to 40 children at Sandstone Woods and other locations in the area have been served during a USDA Rural Development loan program.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, along with local and community-based partners, has been serving meals to children at Sandstone Woods Apartments since the summer of 2012. Sandstone Woods is one of the few afterschool meal programs in the area, serving about 20 children every day.

Michael Wills, director of the Virginia Department of Health, said this partnership with the federal rural development agency is an outgrowth of the state's emphasis on early childhood education and development. For more information about receive lunch lines, visit the program's website or call 376-5422.