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Page 1 of 1

NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

Nevada Wins Federal Dollars to Feed Hungry Children in Summer Douglas, Lyon and Washoe Counties were selected for pilot program

Carson City – The Nevada State Health Division (NSHD) in partnership with the Nevada Department of Education, Child Nutrition and School Health and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada was recently awarded over \$478,000 to participate in the *2012 Summer EBT for Children Demonstration Program*. This program provides healthy foods to low-income children who typically are at heightened risk of food insecurity during the summer months when school is not in session.

Douglas, Lyon and Washoe Counties were selected for the pilot. To be eligible, the children must be currently certified for free or reduced price school meals. From the eligible pool of 25,000 families in the three counties, 5,000 will be randomly selected to receive a summer EBT (electronic benefit transfer) card, which they can use to buy foods like milk, cheese, cereal, eggs, juice, whole grains, beans, peanut butter, and fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children Demonstrations (SEBTC) awards are a result of requirements included by congress in the fiscal year 2010 appropriations. That act required the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to test innovative ways to address the critical need of providing low-income children with access to healthy nutrition during the summer. This household-based project will provide important information about the impact of cutting-edge interventions on achieving real progress in the fight against hunger among our children during the summer months.

Food insecurity is defined as “the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods.” For many low-income children, food insecurity is heightened during summer months because they cannot access school meal programs. “Some children really depend on school lunch programs,” said Richard Whitley, Health Division Administrator. “When summer arrives, a substitute is not always readily available.”

The summer food benefit card becomes available for participants to use the day after the last day of school in the summer and expires on the first day of school in the fall. The program is 100% federally funded.

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Richard Whitley, Administrator