

COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION

SAMPLE LETTER – ELECTED OFFICIALS

Dear [NAME],

I am writing to invite you to participate in an exciting, new effort to help end childhood hunger in [STATE/DISTRICT].

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), a key provision of The Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, allows the nation’s highest poverty districts and schools to serve all students free meals without the burden of collecting household applications. This alternative saves districts and schools time and money by streamlining paperwork and administrative requirements. CEP gives food service professionals more time to focus on preparing nutritious meals their students will enjoy, and gives students more time to eat those meals by cutting down on time spent in the lunch line. Because all students receive meals at no charge, individual children at CEP schools no longer have to worry about the stigma associated with free or reduced price status. And most importantly, by offering all students a nutritious breakfast and lunch at no cost, CEP helps boost participation, helping schools ensure more students come to class well-nourished and ready to learn. For more information, visit: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/community-eligibility-provision>.

You have the potential to make a significant contribution to CEP expansion. As a leader in [STATE/DISTRICT], you possess a strong understanding of the unique needs of [STATE/DISTRICT] families, making you a powerful advocate for the expansion of CEP at eligible districts and schools.

There are many ways you can help spread the word about CEP, including:

* Promoting CEP on traditional and social media platforms
* Issuing a press release in support of CEP
* Encouraging superintendents to adopt CEP at eligible schools and school districts
* Visiting a CEP school during School Breakfast Week (March XX-XX) or National School Lunch Week (October XX-XX)
* Challenging other elected officials to join you in your efforts

CEP can help increase access to the nutritious food children need to thrive. We hope you will join the effort to connect more children to healthy school meals by expanding CEP in [STATE/DISTRICT].

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[TITLE]

TITLE