Crafting your CACFP Leave Behind Message

Know your audience, what benefits and fact appeal to your representative. Leave Behind Example

**Children Benefit**

The Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) offers lifetime benefits. Children in child care with providers who participate on the CACFP are given nutrition education by providers who understand their role in shaping healthy attitudes toward the acceptance of nutritious foods. Providers create an atmosphere that instills a positive, curious attitude about food from the earliest years. Some benefits:

* proper nutrition ensures appropriate development and
* reduces physical and educational problems later in life
* determines quality of one's diet throughout life.

**Parents Benefit**

* assured that their children will be served high quality meals.
* children are less likely to experience fatigue and illness, and less time a parent must be absent from work.
* their child is more likely to be healthy, happy and develop at a normal physical, emotional and intellectual pace because of nutritional value received.
* less burden to bring nutritional food.
* save money.
* happy healthy child = happy healthy parent

**Community Benefit**

* federal tax monies are returned to the provider's state and invested in the health of the community's children.
* added revenue is a means of helping to keep child care costs down for employees working in the community.
* since only regulated providers are eligible to participate in the program, it provides an incentive for unlicensed providers to comply with the communities local child care ordinances.

**Child Care Providers Benefit**

* providers receive valuable nutrition education that helps them know the proper foods to feed children in amounts appropriate for these young age groups.
* receive personal visits from CACFP staff in understanding how to encourage positive eating habits that will benefit a child throughout life.
* they help children make healthy food choices for their meals and snacks that will last a lifetime.

**Economic Value:**

* CACFP helps keep families working; CACFP funding supports the local economy, by purchasing required healthy foods at grocery stores and farmers’ markets.
* CACFP funding is a significant resource for supporting child care providers, afterschool programs, homeless shelters and adult care centers. CACFP supports jobs in child care. The small and large child care business owner’s success in CACFP and child care contributes to all levels of the economic impact of a community.