



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Food Handler Certificate Program Offered at the Hernando County
Detention Center

Date: March 12, 2014

All meals at the Hernando County Detention Center are prepared on site by Inmate Trustys, supervised by Detention Deputies. Meals are prepared three times per day in the commercial kitchen at the Detention Center. Currently, there are approximately 1,500 meals prepared per day – this equates to over 545,000 meals per year.

In an effort to promote and maintain the safest and most sanitary working environment possible, the Food Handler Certificate Program will now be delivered to those Trustys who work in the kitchen. This program is offered in conjunction with the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association's Safe Staff Program.

Florida law requires all food service employees be trained in an approved food safety program. A public food service establishment has 60 days from the date of hire to train an employee. This program meets those required standards.

Completion and certification of this program will provide the inmate with both the knowledge and skills required to comply with Florida's Foodhandler Training Law. Inmates seeking employment in the food service industry upon release may utilize this certificate as proof of meeting the mandatory training standards.

The certificate is valid for three years and is recognized by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

Funds for this program were provided by the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) Grant.

The program will begin with 15 Inmate Trustys. As new Trustys are assigned to the kitchen, the training will be offered to them.