



## Your State Agency is There to Help

Your State agency is your number one partner in making your Summer Meals operation a success. In addition to processing claims, providing training and technical assistance, your State agency represents a valuable resource when looking to conduct outreach for Summer Meals programs.

There are a number of ways that your State agency can assist:

- **Training**

Prior to the start of Program operations, your State agency will make training available in all necessary areas of Program administration to sponsor personnel. This is an excellent opportunity for you as a sponsor and your site supervisors to ask any questions you may have.

- **Monitoring**

State agencies not only review sponsors, they review sites as well. Reviews provide another opportunity for policy clarifications and other questions.

- **Connecting with Other Partners**

Your State agency can connect you with other partners such as anti-hunger organizations, statewide advocacy groups and local organizations. Many of these organizations have experience with and systems for communicating with the public. Your State agency can also connect you with experienced sponsors to help strengthen and grow your program. Connecting similar types of sponsors allows an opportunity for a potential sponsor to develop realistic operational expectations.

- **Identifying Unserved Areas**

When looking to expand existing capacity in the Summer Meals programs, your State is the first place to turn. State agencies know where there are high-need, unserved areas to establish sites.

- **Outreach to Schools**

State agencies can help you connect with schools to promote your sites. State agencies that administer the NSLP are required, to the maximum extent possible, ensure SFA's cooperate with SFSP sponsors to inform families of the availability and location of free summer meals for students when school is not in session.



Remember, your State agency is there to help. If you have any problems that cannot be resolved with your State agency, contact your appropriate FNS Regional Office. Contact information for both your FNS Regional Office and State agency can be found below.

List of FNS Regional Offices: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns-regional-offices>

List of State Agencies: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Contacts/StateDirectory.htm>



Summer Food Rocks!

## Summer Meals Toolkit

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