



Summer Meals Newsletter

JUNE 2016 • STATE AGENCIES

SUMMER IS FINALLY HERE...
LET'S MAKE HUNGER DISAPPEAR!

What's New?

NOW AVAILABLE: Summer Food, Summer Moves! Print versions! This fun, hands-on resource kit designed to help summer meal site operators get kids and families excited about healthy eating and physical activity during the summer months is now available in print. You can order yours here: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/summer-food-summer-moves>



Streamlining SFSP and CACFP Afterschool Meals: Share Our Strength has created a new resource that helps State agencies and sponsors better understand the similarities and differences between SFSP and CACFP Afterschool Meals. https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/afterschool-snacks-meals#dialog_1568

Upcoming USDA and Partner Events

June 1st, 2pm EST

USDA FNS: SFSP State Agency Monitoring Guide
<https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=iuvwsj13kjrj>

June 2nd, 2pm EST

Food Research & Action Center: Mind the Gap—Partnerships and Strategies for Serving Meals All Summer Long
http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5118/p/salsa/event/common/public?event_KEY=81571

June 9th, 2pm EST

Share Our Strength: Summer Meals Program Webinar for Congressional District Staff Members
<https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/events/2016/june/9/summer-meals-program-webinar-congressional-district-staff-members>

Resources for State Agencies

Local Foods and Enriching Activities in Summer Meal Programs: State agencies can use farm to summer principles to help sponsors increase the quality and appeal of meals, encourage programming that helps children and teens stay nourished, active, and engaged while school is out. Check out this webinar to learn more! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JXZhbEXxYs&feature=youtu.be>



Planning Events for Summer

Encourage sponsors to host a kick-off event to promote summer meals and engage sponsors, partners, families, and the community!

Kick-off events introduce summer meals to communities across your State and sponsors have the opportunity to make it any kind of event they want! The goal of kick-off events is to get parents, children, and the community excited about your State's summer meal program. Sponsor events can be as simple as inviting parents for a day of fun to jump start your summer meal service, or a major event with public officials or celebrities and media. Encourage sponsors to hold kick-off events that are fun, fresh, and entertaining!



To be most effective, kick-off events should take place right after the academic school year ends, the first day of programming, or at the beginning of June during National Summer Kick-Off Week. The location of kick-off events will depend on the number of people expected to attend, funds available, and your organization's capacity. Good examples include community centers, public libraries, municipal parks, or meal service sites.

Partner engagement is the key for any successful event. Use your contacts as the State agency to connect summer meal sites with different groups in the community, to make kick-off events the hub for sharing information about services that are available in the community.

You can also encourage sponsors and sites to utilize the new resource developed by FNS' Team Nutrition, *Offering Health Summer Meals That Kids Enjoy*, to help make their sites a summer destination for the community.

Did you know? Historically, site attendance drops off after July 4th every summer. Take advantage of community events surrounding Independence Day and make a plug for summer meals at parades and neighborhood BBQs!

Keep the Momentum! Kick-off events set the stage for summer, but it's important to keep that momentum going! Encourage sponsors to keep their communities engaged by having Spike Events, similar to kick-off events, to re-engage the community and remind families of the importance and availability of summer meals. Spike events help boost summer meals participation and ensure that kids continue to get healthy meals all summer long!

Summer Jobs + Summer Meals = Summer Opportunity !



This summer, the White House and Federal agencies are championing greater youth access to jobs, learning experiences, and food, all of which prepare them for future success! Check out the Summer Jobs + Summer Meals = Summer Opportunity resources to learn how your organization can get involved!

http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cn/usda-dol_summernewsletter.pdf