



Police Departments

Summer Meal sites are safe places for children to gather when school is out. Sponsors can capitalize on this idea through partnership with local police officers. Partnerships with community police departments can encourage positive relations between youth and officers, reducing delinquency and crime while providing kids a healthy meal.

Go to [Resources](#).

PoliceLocator

How can you locate your local police department? PoliceLocator is a resource for finding police departments, sheriff's offices, and other law enforcement agencies.

<http://www.policelocator.com/>

Community Partnership Opportunities

Many police departments run community-oriented youth programs. The following local and national police programs exist in across the country, and may be available to host a Summer Meal site or provide site activities:

- **Police Athletic League (PAL)**

PAL is a member-based organization working to prevent juvenile crime by building a bond between cops and kids. PAL activities – sports, arts and crafts, rock climbing and tutoring – make for great site activities!

- **Cops 'N' Kids**

Cops 'N' Kids aims to build stronger relationships between youth and police officers through youth development programs. Cops 'N' Kids can give youth participants a more wholesome experience by providing healthy Summer Meals.

- **Police Summer Camps**

Free or low-cost summer camps sponsored by police departments often focus on promoting physical fitness and healthy eating. Incorporating a healthy meal is a great way to ensure strong program participation.



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Summer Meals Toolkit

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider,
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- **Juvenile Intervention and Support Programs**

Police departments often partner with public schools and other governmental and civic organizations to strengthen their impact on local youth.

Spotlight on Massachusetts!

In Southbridge, Sergeant Jose Dingui and his Cops 'N' Kids team provide breakfast and lunch to over one hundred children every day in the summertime. Along with their Summer Meals, the kids enjoy playing sports, learning safety tips and growing flowers in the Southbridge Cops 'N' Kids Community Garden. Officers say the Cops 'N' Kids Summer Meal Program has helped reduce youth crime and probation rates by providing children and teens a safe, healthy environment where they can build positive relationships with authority figures.

Funding Opportunities

Summer Meal partners working with local police departments to reduce delinquency, drug abuse, and other high-risk behaviors among youth may be eligible for funding from the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), which supports community programs, such as the 4-H National Mentoring Program.

- The 4-H Mentoring Program aims to increase youth competency, improve relationships and increase academic success among at-risk youth by providing youth with positive role models.

<http://www.4-h.org/youth-development-programs/mentoring/>

- Sponsors interested in pursuing other OJJDP partnerships should contact their State OJJDP representatives.

<http://www.ojjdp.gov/statecontacts/resource/mentoring.asp>





Resources

USDA

- *Reaching Unserved and Underserved Areas*
http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sfsp/SMT-Unserved_Areas.pdf
- *Cops 'N' Kids and Summer Meals*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TXQ1zIZ0k4>

Department of Justice

- *COPS Resource Center*
<http://ric-zai-inc.com/>
- *OJJDP Programs*
<http://www.ojjdp.gov/programs/index.html>

Police Athletic League (PAL)

PAL Regions and Chapters

<http://nationalpal.org/chapters>

International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)

Youth Focused Policing Resource Center

<http://www.iacpyouth.org/ProgramDirectory/SearchResults.aspx>

National Crime Prevention Council

Teens, Crime, and the Community

<http://www.ncpc.org/programs/teens-crime-and-the-community/about-tcc>

Southbridge Cops 'N' Kids Program

Staff Sergeant Jose Dingui of the Southbridge Cops 'N' Kids Program has offered to be a resource for police departments interested in launching a Cops 'N' Kids Summer Meal Program.

<http://www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/users/jdingui/contact>





For Additional Information

Review these ideas and adopt the strategies that seem reasonable to you and achievable for your Program. For additional questions, sponsors and the general public should contact their State agency for help. State agencies should contact their Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Regional Office.

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>

USDA and its recipient institutions share responsibility for compliance and oversight to ensure good stewardship of Federal funds.

