

Summer Meals Newsletter

JANUARY 2015

WHILE MOST ARE SETTLING IN FOR WINTER, WE KNOW YOU'RE ALL HARD AT WORK GEARING UP FOR SUMMER!



What's New?

2015 FNS Webinar Schedule

www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/2015-summer-meals-webinars

'SFSP 101– An Introduction to Summer Meals' is available throughout the winter. We are ready to help with your outreach efforts. Direct prospective sponsors here to learn the basics. We also have webinars that touch on specific challenges and opportunities.

*View previously recorded webinars here:

www.fns.usda.gov/fns-webinars#sfsp.



Summer Meals Toolkit

www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-meals-toolkit

This web-based toolkit has been updated with new resources featured in the seven 'mini-toolkits' targeting specific audiences and topics. The toolkit is updated throughout the year to reflect the new best practices FNS collects from State agencies, partners and sponsors throughout the country.

2015 Handbooks

www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/handbooks

These are annually updated to reflect changes made to the Program in the last year.

2015 SFSP Reimbursement Rates –

www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp-reimbursement-rates

Resources for State Agencies

Proactive planning is key this time of year. The sooner you get the ball rolling, the more effective your efforts will be this spring and summer. Here are some resources to help!

Schedule a State/Local Partner Meeting

Share Our Strength has developed a planning process with resources for preparing a planning meeting. This tool provides the tips, templates and guides needed to host a planning meeting, develop the final plan, and keep collaborators engaged throughout the summer. Visit their website here: bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/summer-meals/creating-and-managing-plan.

Develop Comprehensive Management and Administrative Plans- Due Feb 15th

State agencies are required to submit their plan for the year to their FNS Regional Office. For more information, visit: www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cnd/SMT-MAP.pdf.

Target Outreach Efforts and Resources

www.fns.usda.gov/capacitybuilder

Use the FNS Capacity Builder to identify unserved and underserved areas and reach out to potential sponsors and sites. This is a great tool that can be used in real-time during planning meetings.

Sponsor Retention

Time to reach out to all the sponsors you worked so closely with last year to establish and maintain strong summer meals sites. **2014 was a hit, let's keep the momentum going!**

Send out the training schedule now to get summer back on their radar. Develop your training materials now, so that your sponsors can be reintroduced to the Program and reenergized for 2015. You can find innovative approaches on trainings and general sponsor retention practices here: www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cnd/SMT-SponsorRetention.pdf.

Save the date

The **USDA 2015 National Summer Meals Kick Off Week** is officially set for **June 1-5!**

Now it's time to start thinking about when your State will have kick-off events this year. If schools are still in session in your State in early June, think about having a Summer Meals Awareness Day/Event to get community interest before the summer begins. For resources and examples, see www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cnd/SMT-HostingEvents.pdf.

Engage State and Local Leaders

There are newly elected officials in your State. Engaging them early on in the year ensures their interest and support for the Program. Reach out to them, talk about the success your Program experienced last year and ask for their participation in kick-off and spike events in the summer. Staff of State and local leaders can also be valuable during the expansion process in the winter and spring months, in terms of accessing new resources and partner connections.

For more information on how to engage these groups, see www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-meals-toolkit-communication-strategy-and-resources.

