



Summer Meals Newsletter

JULY 2015

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

The Site Finder is Up!

The Summer Site Finder is up and running! FNS relies on State agencies to provide accurate information about their sites to ensure families know where to go to find free meals for their children. Please continue to send updated site lists to summertechsupport@fns.usda.gov. Remember: always include the complete list of sites when sending an update!

To access the Site Finder, visit: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks>.

***NEW!* Summer Meal Yard Signs**

Check out the FNS Raise Awareness webpage to find free Summer Meal yard sign templates you can use to draw more kids to your sites in your State!
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/raise-awareness>

**Missed an earlier event?
Want to watch one again?**

Catch up on past webinars by visiting:
www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/2015-summer-meals-recorded-webinars.

Webinar Spotlight: Monitoring & Integrity

Along with promoting efforts to expand to rural and unserved areas, FNS has enhanced its efforts to maintain strong Program integrity. State agencies play a crucial role in ensuring good stewardship of Federal dollars by confirming sponsors and sites are operating in accordance with Program regulations, and correcting any issues or misunderstandings in a timely manner. To aid in this effort, FNS recently hosted two technical webinars addressing important State agency staff duties during the summer.

Program Monitoring

Discusses the State's role in ensuring the Program operates according to FNS regulations, and offers tips on providing targeted, technical assistance when needed.
<https://youtu.be/FwY5f0UFaDI>

Preserving Program Integrity

Discusses the State's role in reducing error, fraud, and abuse within the Program.
<http://youtu.be/QVDP2A853vY>



Summer Data Update

Targeted outreach has led to major site increases in hard-to-reach areas, around the nation moving us one step closer to reaching our goal of serving 200 million meals in 2015.

Compared with Summer 2014:

*The number of summer sites at Bureau of Indian Education schools has increased by **127 percent**.*

*The percentage of public housing units serving as sites in rural and tribal areas has increased by **94 percent**.*

*The percentage of multifamily housing facilities serving as feeding sites in rural and tribal areas has risen **233 percent**.*

Hungry for more data? Check out this Fact Sheet!
<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2015/06/0179.xml>

Partnership of the Month: WIC

Like Summer Meals, the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program aims to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our nation's children. Nearly half of all children born in the U.S. benefit from WIC, making WIC clinics excellent places for Summer Meal outreach and promotion.



There are many ways to build WIC partnerships. State agencies can encourage WIC clinics and staff to become involved by:

- Writing “prescriptions” referring kids to nearby sites.
- Hosting a site at the clinic or at a nearby park.
- Posting Summer Meal flyers in the clinic waiting room.
- Providing nutrition education lessons or other activities.

For more ideas, check out the Partnering with WIC Toolkit Page: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sfsp/SMT-WIC.pdf>

NEW! SFSP Mid Summer Capacity Builder

State agencies know that the middle of the summer can be a challenging time for the Summer Meals Program. Summer schools across the country close their doors in June, meaning the closure of thousands of sites located at these schools.

FNS has a new mapping tool available for State agencies working to close the summer meal gap. **The SFSP Mid Summer Capacity Builder** allows State agency staff and sponsors to overlay closing sites with census-eligible areas to find gaps in service in July. Once the eligible area is determined, State agency staff and sponsors can identify where new sites are needed and find partners to open potential new sites. Staff can then reach out to the respective “point person” at the new site (e.g. inviting the head of the State library association to open new library sites.)

When reaching out to a new site, State agency staff should emphasize the need to keep eligible children fed throughout the summer, and the important role the organization can play in filling the gap left by the closure of summer schools.

To access the Mid Summer Capacity Builder, please visit: <http://arcg.is/1dbw7qW>

