



Summer Meals Newsletter

AUGUST 2015

SUMMER ISN'T COOLING DOWN YET...
LET'S MAKE IT ONE THE KIDS CAN'T FORGET!

Summer Site Finder

Although fall is just around the corner, summer sites across the country are still working hard to reach kids before the school year begins. 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 send updated site lists to summertechsupport@fns.usda.gov. Always include the complete list of sites when sending an update!

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



Share Your Stories!

Send your best Summer Meals media pieces to the appropriate FNS Regional Office, and they may be featured on our Best Practices website!

Upcoming Partner Webinars

Click the links below to register for upcoming webinars from the USDA's national partners.

August 11, 2:00 PM

Share Our Strength's

What Summer Meals Mean for Kids

<http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/events/upcoming>

September 3, 1:00 PM

Food, Research & Action Center's (FRAC) Debriefing Summer and Setting the Scene for Next Year

http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5118/p/salsa/event/common/public?event_KEY=78242

The Economic Impact of Hunger

USDA's national partner Share Our Strength recently released a report assessing the economic impact of summer hunger. The report, "Summer Hunger is Too Expensive to Ignore," included several important findings:



- Families **spend an additional \$300** on groceries during the summer months.
- Schools spend \$1540 **"re-teaching"** students struggling with summer learning loss.
- Stopping the learning loss could **save up to \$50.6 billion** nationwide.

To view the full report, please visit:

https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/sites/default/files/resources/NKH_MicroReport_02_SummerHunger_Final.pdf

Wrapping Up Summer 2015

Summer “Best Practice Awards”

As the season draws to a close, it’s important for State agencies to pause and thank their best sponsors, sites, and partners for all the hard work they have put in feeding children this summer. States can create nonmonetary awards to generate excitement, encourage competition, and build goodwill among their best and most reliable partners. Awards can be given in a number of categories, including:

- **“Greatest Increase in Meals Served”** for Sponsors
- **“Healthiest Summer Meals”** for Vendors or Sites
- **“Best Outreach Effort”** for all Partners
- **“Volunteer of the Year”** for Site Supervisors
- **“Best Site Programming”** for Sites or Site Supervisors
- **“Summer Champion”** for Elected Officials and Community Leaders



States that have overcome specific obstacles, such as reaching more children in rural areas or addressing their community’s transportation challenge, can recognize a sponsor, site, or other partner for their creativity with a “Summer Innovator” award. FNS encourages State agencies to issue a press release when granting their Best Practice Awards as a way to increase the visibility of the Program.

Summer Debrief

“Summer Debrief” meetings give State agencies the opportunity to evaluate the success of the Program and begin planning for next year. Sponsors, site supervisors, and partners can discuss challenges (low participation, transportation issues, etc.) and brainstorm solutions to implement in 2016.

Share Our Strength has resources available for State agencies interested in hosting a Summer Debrief, including a sample meeting agenda:

<https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/summer-meals/wrapping-and-renewing-commitment>

Sponsor Exit Interviews

August is a great time for States to check in with their sponsors and see how the summer went while it is still fresh in their minds. Sponsors planning to return in 2016 can provide feedback on what went well, and those leaving the Program can explain the challenges they faced, allowing States to proactively address similar issues in the future.

A “sponsor survey” can include questions about:

- The sponsor’s interest in returning.
- The sponsor’s interest in adding new sites.
- Any challenges the sponsor faced, and what the State agency can do to help.

FRAC has a sample survey available online that State agencies may use as a template when developing their own questionnaire:

http://frac.org/pdf/sfsp_state_agency_sponsor_retention_plans.pdf