



## Reaching Tribal Youth

Reaching Tribal youth through the Summer Meal Programs is a priority for the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). To be successful in achieving this goal, a unique partnership is needed among Tribal Nations, their stakeholders, and their respective State agencies. This partnership will include the State agencies working closely with Tribes to identify their community's needs related to Summer Meals for children.

Together, these partnerships can focus on retaining experienced sponsors to operate the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), outreach efforts aimed at sponsor and site recruitment, and other efforts related to maintaining a strong and sustainable Summer Meal Programs in Tribal communities.

FNS continues to find ways to improve the participation of Tribal Nations across all programs. To assist with this, FNS conducts quarterly Tribal consultations to solicit feedback on regulatory and policy changes and to ensure continued access and strong Tribal participation.

FNS also encourages State agencies to work with Tribes to ensure that any barriers to participation within the States are addressed. As part of their annual Management and Administration Plan (MAP), State agencies are required to identify Indian Tribal territories which qualify for Summer Meal Programs, actively seek eligible applicant sponsors to serve in these areas and provide technical assistance and training.

Go to [Resources](#).

### Outreach and Communication

By providing outreach assistance and support to the Tribes, State agencies can recruit new sponsors and help existing sponsors expand their Summer Meal Programs. Here are a few innovative and successful strategies.

- **Close Coordination with Tribal Leaders**

Tribal Leaders know their communities well. The State agency should work with them to identify Tribal agencies and community stakeholders willing to be sponsors of sites.



06/03/16

### Summer Meals Toolkit

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider,  
Employer and Lender



- **Publicity Through Other State and Tribal Agencies**

State agencies can coordinate outreach with the other State agencies that serve the Tribal communities such as Medicaid, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and other agencies to publicize Summer Meals. State agencies can also coordinate with Tribal organizations that directly administer the Food Distribution on Indian Reservations Program (FDPIR). Ideas to consider include placing “Summer Meals stuffers” in beneficiaries’ mailings that provide basic information about Summer Meals and contact information for the State agency.

- **Ready-to-use Outreach Materials for New Sponsors**

State developed resources can provide basic information as well as State-specific contact information for interested sponsors or sites. They can share materials such as brochures and on-line information developed for Summer Meal Programs. Often in-person meetings can be valuable for building relationships, recruiting sponsors and sites, identifying training opportunities and linking in existing sponsors for mentoring.

- **Open Lines of Communication**

Ensuring open lines of communication between the State agency, Tribal Nations, sponsors, and sites can lead to establishing successful Summer Meal Program operations, as well as strong working relationships.

## Resources

### USDA

- SFSP 14-2012: Tribal Participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program  
[http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/CACFP18\\_SFSP14-2012\\_0.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/CACFP18_SFSP14-2012_0.pdf)
- Summer Meals Toolkit  
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-meals-toolkit>





## **Food Research and Action Center**

*Implementation Calendar*

[http://frac.org/pdf/sfsp\\_year\\_round\\_implementation\\_calendar.pdf](http://frac.org/pdf/sfsp_year_round_implementation_calendar.pdf)

## **Share Our Strength**

*Center for Best Practices*

<http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/free-summer-meals-kids>

## **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 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.*

