



# Summer Meals Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2016 • STATE AGENCIES

SUMMER 2016 WAS A WIN!

TIME FOR NEXT YEAR'S PLANNING TO BEGIN!

## Upcoming USDA and Partner Events

**November 3rd, 1:00 PM EST**

**Reducing Food Waste and Serving Kid-Friendly Meals** | Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)

**December 1st, 1:00 PM EST**

**Food Policy Councils and the Summer Nutrition Programs** | Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)

**December 5-6, 2016**

**National Summer Meals Summit** | Share Our Strength

## What's New!

### FRAC Releases First-Ever Report Analyzing Summer Breakfast Participation

*Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation: Summer Breakfast Status Report* “measures July 2015 summer breakfast participation against July 2015 summer lunch participation, nationally and in each state. The findings show that only 1.7 million low-income children received summer breakfast on an average weekday in July 2015—barely half as many who ate summer lunch.

The report highlights best practices to increase summer breakfast participation and sets an ambitious, but achievable, goal of reaching 70 children with summer breakfast through the Summer Nutrition Programs for every 100 participating in summer lunch.”

Read the report [here](#).

**SUMMER MEALS AND FOODCORPS**  
*an introduction for state agencies*



USDA will release a **NEW** fact sheet about the ways FoodCorps can support Summer Meals and Farm to Summer! For more information about Farm to Summer, please visit: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-summer>

## FYI...

FNS is currently updating all of the Summer Guides found here: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/handbooks>

If you have any edits, comments, or questions you would like to see in the revised guides, please send them to [SummerMealsGuides@fns.usda.gov](mailto:SummerMealsGuides@fns.usda.gov) by November 15.

# School Outreach Tips!

Schools are well-positioned to help States counter the “summer hunger gap” by supporting the Summer Food Service Program or Seamless Summer Option (SSO). State agencies can encourage schools to sponsor a Program, host a site, or assist with outreach and promotion.



## Schools as Sponsors and Sites:

Schools operating the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) are familiar with Federal meal pattern requirements and have facilities available to prepare and serve meals, making schools excellent sponsors and site locations. There are several advantages that State agencies can highlight when recruiting schools to work with the Program, including:

- Streamlined application process for schools in good standing with the NSLP.
- Use of a single non-profit food service account for all Child Nutrition Programs.
- Option to vend the Program, providing year-round work for school kitchen staff.
- Ability to extend existing vendor contacts to use USDA Foods in the SFSP.

- Stability from a year-round source of Federal meal reimbursements.
- Incentive for children to participate in summer learning programs or activities hosted by the school.
- Opportunity to recruit new community volunteers.
- Improved relations with families and the community.

When reaching out to schools, State agencies can share the [No Kid Hungry School Calculator](#), which school officials can use to assess their annual estimated costs and reimbursements, and the potential increase in student participation, from adding the Summer Meals Program.

## School Outreach and Promotion:

State agencies administering the NSLP are required to inform families of the availability and location of free Summer Meals. States can go above and beyond this requirement by empowering schools to become outreach “champions,” encouraging school officials to:

- Send informational Summer Meal pamphlets home with children.
- Include site location information in school newsletters.
- Post a link to the FNS Site Finder on the school’s webpage.
- Share information about the Program during parent-teacher conferences.
- Add a Summer Meals announcement to the school’s robo-call system.
- Hang a Power up for Summer Fun! banner in front of the school.



For more information on reaching out to school, please visit: [http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sfsp/SMT\\_Schools.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sfsp/SMT_Schools.pdf)