Today’s Agenda

Welcome and introductions
Why Equity?
• Jeannine Rios, Share Our Strength

Feeding Children Summit
• Susan Nelson, Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families

Regional Child Nutrition Workgroups
• Stephanie Loup, Louisiana Dept. of Education

Policy in Practice
• Danny Mintz, Louisiana Budget Project

Audience Q&A

Additional Resources
No Kid Hungry is a campaign of Share Our Strength. We are committed to ending childhood hunger in the United States by helping launch and improve programs that give kids the food they need to thrive.
No Kid Hungry’s Center for Best Practices provides information, tools, and resources designed to end childhood hunger.

bestpractices.nokidhungry.org
THANK YOU!
What is Equity?

• More complicated than equality
• Providing necessary resources to reach the same results

Why is it important?

• Structural racism
• Equity is a solution
Minimizing Barriers

- Language
- Types of foods served
- Comfortability with staff
- Bus schedules
- Location of meals served
- Stigma

Crafting policy that centers equity and the experience and lives of children and families.
Americans do not experience hunger equally

- A disproportionate number of families of color experience food insecurity at higher rates reflecting underlying inequalities.

- Drivers of food insecurity:
  - Systemic racism
  - Disability
  - Homeownership
  - Median Income
  - Poverty
  - Unemployment

Susan Nelson
Louisiana Partnership for Children & Families
Feeding Children Summit Highlights

We NOURISH So That They Can Flourish

#FeedingChildrenLA
The Summit focused on:

• Where We Feed Children
• How We Feed Children
• What We Feed Children

• And celebrated those working to feed children under trying circumstances.
Summit Topics

• Special Address by Eddie Longoria, Special Nutrition Programs, USDA
• Connecting Families to Benefits
• Fostering Relationships Between Local Farmers, Schools & Communities
• Relationship Mapping & Network Building
• Louisiana Festival of Flavors Recipe Development Project
• Federal Feeding Initiatives on the Horizon
• Innovating in Crisis: A Discussion on How School Districts Can Adapt to School Closures
• Infant Feeding Varies Across Eating Behavior and Feeding Modalities in Low-Income Mothers
• Childhood Obesity and the State of America
• Collaborating in Crisis: Stories from the Field
Partners Included:

• No Kid Hungry Louisiana
• Pennington Biomedical Research Center
• LSU Ag Center
• Louisiana Department of Education
• Louisiana Budget Project
• Three O’Clock Project
• Save the Children Action Network
Outcomes

- Time & Space to Think About Networking and Needs
- Sharing Information About Feeding Programs
- Learning About Responding to School Closures
- Sharing Information About Partner Programs
- Celebrating Excellence and a Forum for Awards
- Statewide Media Coverage & Long-Form Segments on Local Cable Stations

The Event Video Can Be Found on YouTube: https://youtu.be/EVwXo9-RTRL
Child Nutrition Program
Regional Workgroups
Louisiana Department of Education-Division of Nutrition Support
Introduction

COVID closures began March 2020
Weekly calls to all sponsors began
Schools continued to feed
Initiated first workgroup January 2021
Purpose

• Identify gaps in service
• Facilitate discussions on best practices
• Share success stories
Small Group Pilot

23 SFAs represented in East Baton Rouge Parish

Round Robin Zoom discussion on barriers, gaps in service, and best practices
Outcomes

• Connected a small SFA with an SFSP sponsor
• Initiation of afterschool snack programs
• Decrease in competition over summer sites
• Began conversations about the challenges of the pandemic
  • Supply Chain
  • Staffing Shortages
Expansion

- Northwest Louisiana (September 2021)
- Southwest Louisiana (March 2022)
- Northeast Louisiana (March 2022)

- 40/64 parishes represented
Key Outcomes

- Connecting sponsors with services
- Open communication between sponsors
- Open communication with state agency
- Sharing of best-practices
- Problem-solving pandemic challenges
- Initiation of afterschool programs
Challenges

- Keeping stakeholders engaged—especially smaller systems
- (SA) Not always having answers for challenges in the field or for ever-changing pandemic feeding
Benefits

• Relationship Building
• Rapport Building
• Clear understanding of existing CNP programs
• SA understanding of barriers
• Open communication
  • Between SFAs
  • Between the SA and SFAs
Recommendations

- Start a group!
- Start small
- Build relationships
- LISTEN!
- Meet in person if/when able
- If on zoom, cameras on!
Questions?

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Policy in Practice: Child Nutrition Reauthorization
Programs in Child Nutrition Reauthorization

- WIC and WIC Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program
- National School Lunch Program
- School Breakfast Program
- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Summer Food Service Program
- Special Milk Program
Child Nutrition Reauthorization is 7 years overdue

This delays:
- Program improvements
- Administrative Streamlining
- Opportunities for increasing equity
Case Study: Summer Meals

Marker bill (Summer Meals Act of 2021) proposals:

• Lower area eligibility threshold to 40% (from 50%)
• Allow year round SFSP for some sponsors, to eliminate the CACFP-SFSP handoff
• Transportation grants for hard-to-serve communities
• Allow service of a third meal
• Waive congregate requirements in disaster situations
IN MANY PARISHES, NEED OUTSTRIPS MEAL SITES

- 0 to 500 children in poverty per site
- 501 to 1,000 children in poverty per site
- 1,001 to 2,000 children in poverty per site
- 2,001 to 4,000 children in poverty per site
- 4,001 to 4,923 children in poverty per site
- No Sites
- Insufficient Data
Practitioner voices matter!
Q&A
Equity Resources

Advancing Equity: Designing a Meals Program that Reaches Every Child (resource)
Conversation Starters for Designing More Inclusive School Meals Programs (resource)
Rural Communities Leading the Way: Introducing Local Foods to Meal Service (resource)
School Nutrition Equity In Nebraska (webpage resource)
Conversations on Food Justice (webinar series)
Spotlight on Equity (case studies)

All of No Kid Hungry’s equity resources can be found on our Equity in Child Nutrition webpage!
New Resource!

Feeding a Crowd – Tips for Congregate Meal Service

Available at: bestpractices.nokidhungry.org

Click “Latest Resources” on the orange navigation bar!
New Resource!

Communicating with Parents and Families About Changes to Summer Meals 2022 Operations

Available at: bestpractices.nokidhungry.org

Click “Latest Resources” on the orange navigation bar!
New Resource!

**SFSP & SSO Requirements - Comparison Chart of Usual vs. COVID-19 Waiver Operations**

Available at: bestpractices.nokidhungry.org

Click “Latest Resources” on the orange navigation bar!
School’s Out, Food’s In!

Summer Webinar Series

**March 30 @3pm EST** – Planning for Summer Meals: Strategies to navigate no-waiver operations

**April 13 @1pm EST** – Reaching Hard to Reach Communities: Leveraging Innovation and Partnership

**May 17 @ 2pm EST** – Promoting Your Summer Meals Program: Strategies and Tips to Promote Your Summer Meals Program

**June 9 @3pm EST** – Evaluating and Incorporating Feedback into Your Summer Meals Programs

**July** – Thinking 365: Transitioning Your Summer Meals Program to an Afterschool Program through CACFP At-risk
Stay in Touch!

Sign up for our newsletter:

www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/subscribe

Visit the CBP website:

www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org
THANK YOU

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