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# Centering Equity in Policy - Highlights from Louisiana

May 9, 2022





# HOUSEKEEPING





## 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.





*center for* BEST  
PRACTICES

No Kid Hungry's Center for Best Practices provides information, tools, and resources designed to end childhood hunger.

[bestpractices.nokidhungry.org](https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org)



**THANK YOU!**

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## Jeannine Rios

Center for Best Practices,  
Share Our Strength





# 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





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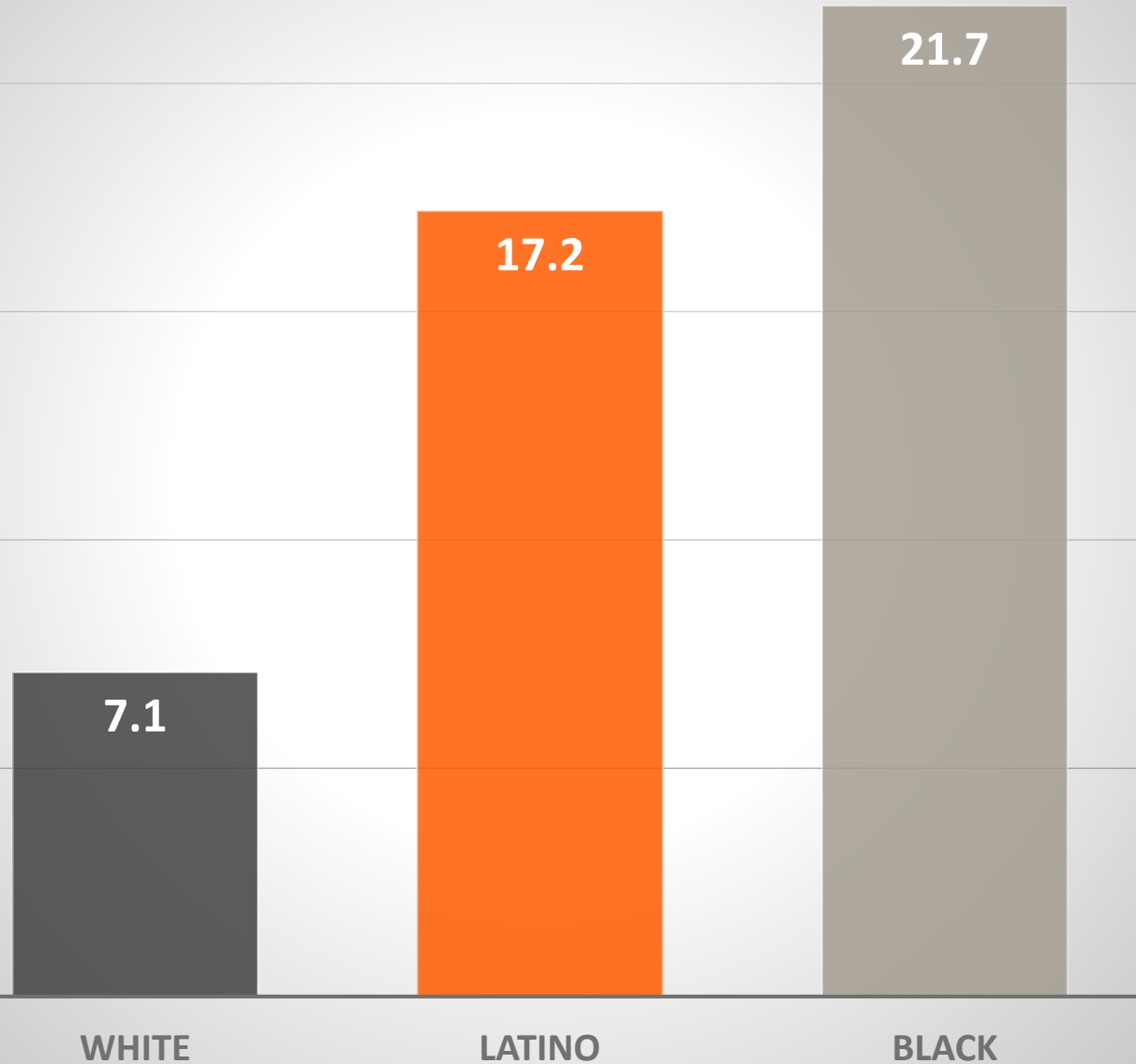
## Minimizing Barriers

- 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.*



## American Families Are Experiencing Hunger



## 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

Feeding America (2022). Identifying racism in the drivers of food insecurity. Retrieved from <https://feedingamericaaction.org/resources/racisminhunger/>



## Susan Nelson

Louisiana Partnership for  
Children & Families





# Feeding Children Summit Highlights

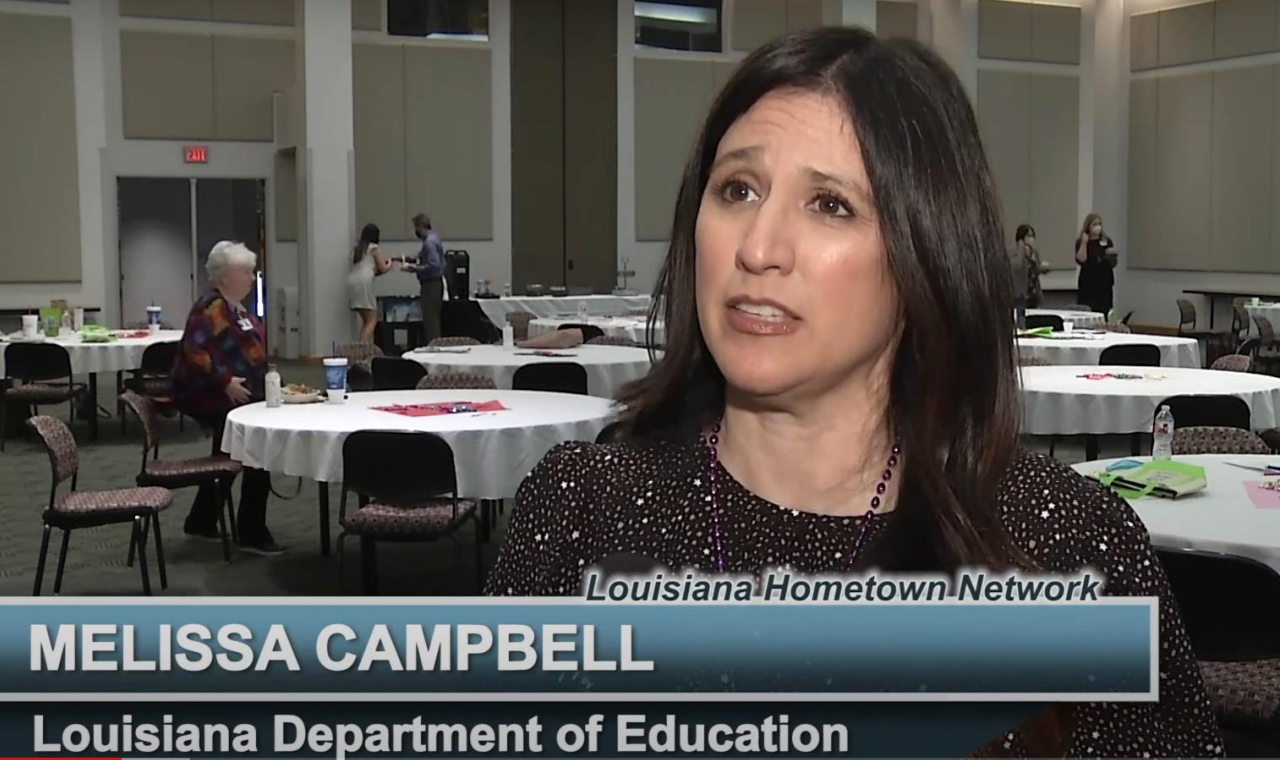
We **NOURISH**  
So That They Can

*Flourish*

#FeedingChildrenLA



Louisiana  
Partnership  
*for children & families*



*Louisiana Hometown Network*

**MELISSA CAMPBELL**

**Louisiana Department of Education**



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## 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.**



**CRYSTAL BESSE**

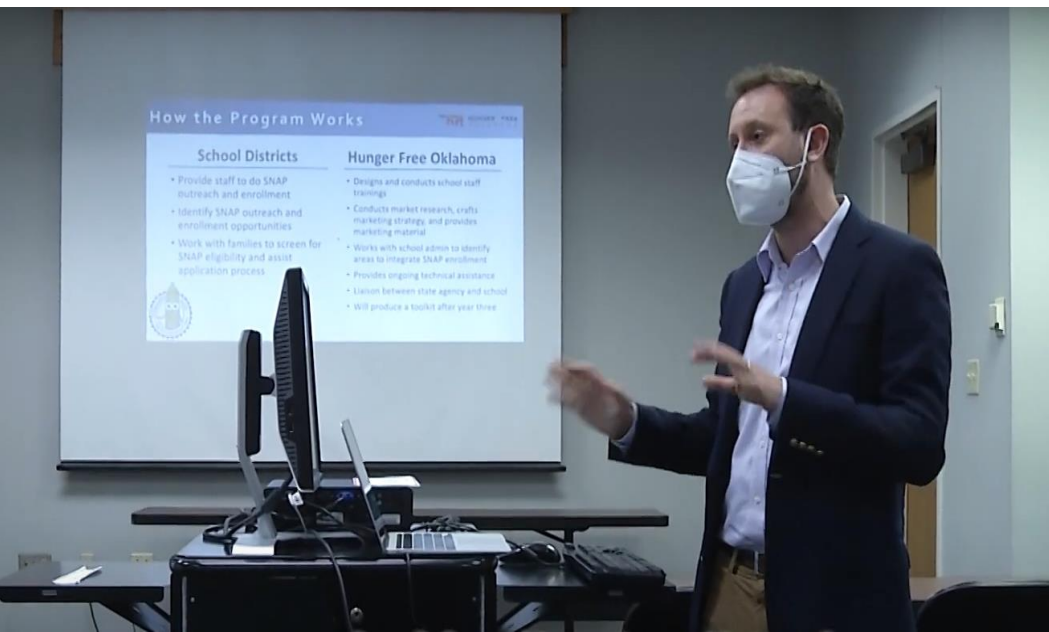
**LSU AgCenter**

Louisiana Hometown Network

Crystal Besse

## 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



### How the Program Works

#### School Districts

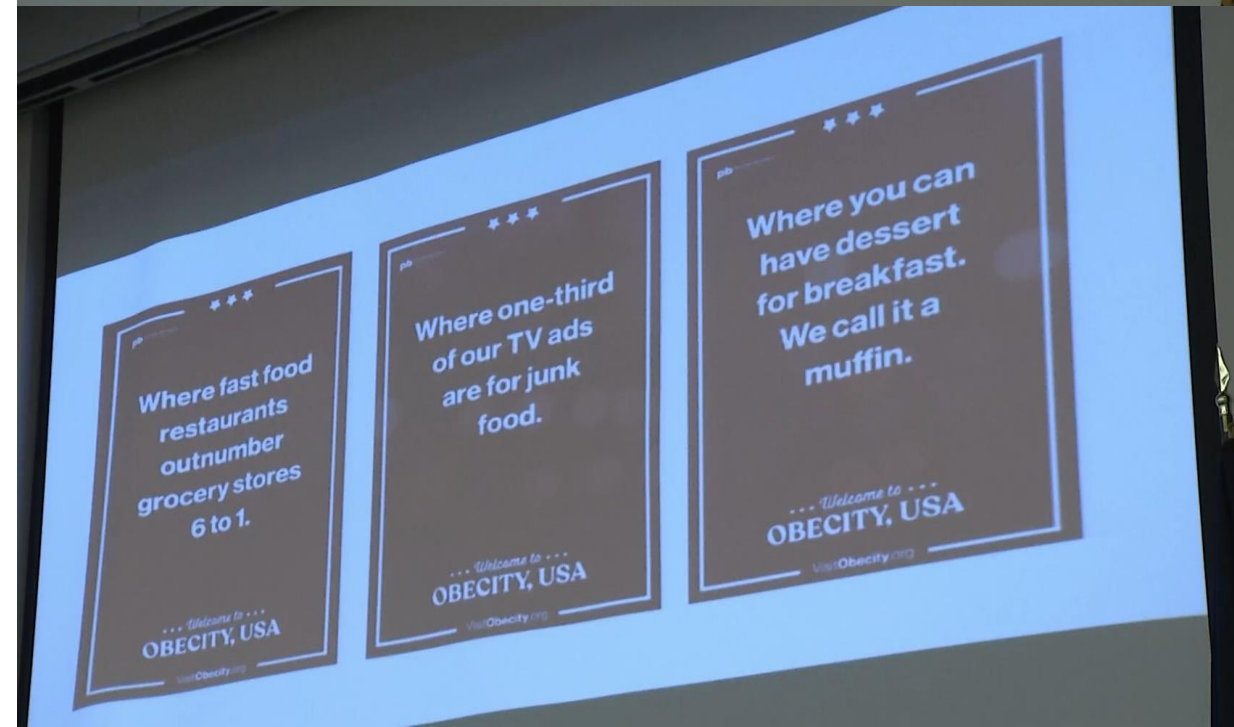
- Provide staff to do SNAP outreach and enrollment
- Identify SNAP outreach and enrollment opportunities
- Work with families to screen for SNAP eligibility and assist application process

#### Hunger Free Oklahoma

- Designs and conducts school staff training
- Conducts market research, crafts marketing strategy, and provides marketing material
- Works with school administrators to identify areas to integrate SNAP enrollment
- Provides ongoing technical assistance
- Liaison between state agency and school
- Will produce a toolkit after year three

## 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



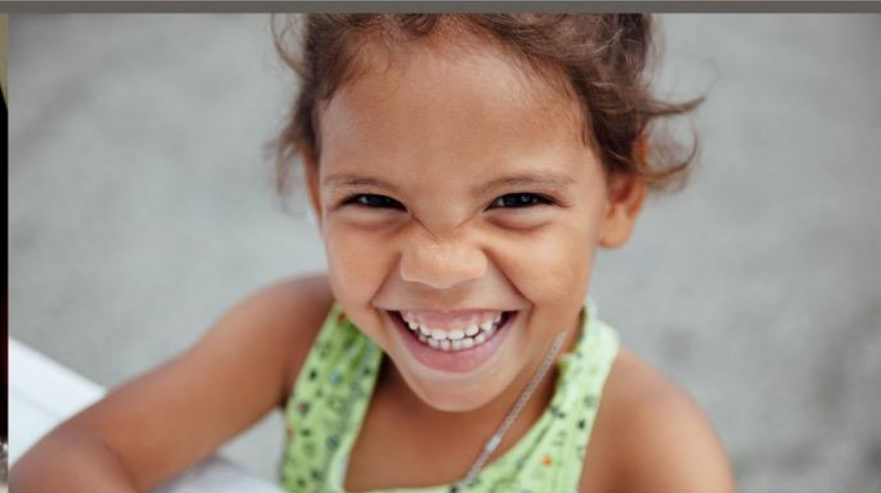
## Outcomes

- 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-RTR/>*







**Stephanie Loup**  
Louisiana Dept. of Education





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**Child Nutrition Program  
Regional Workgroups  
Louisiana Department of  
Education-Division of Nutrition  
Support**

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# 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?

Stephanie Loup

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225.342.9661





**Danny Mintz**  
Louisiana Budget Project



# 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

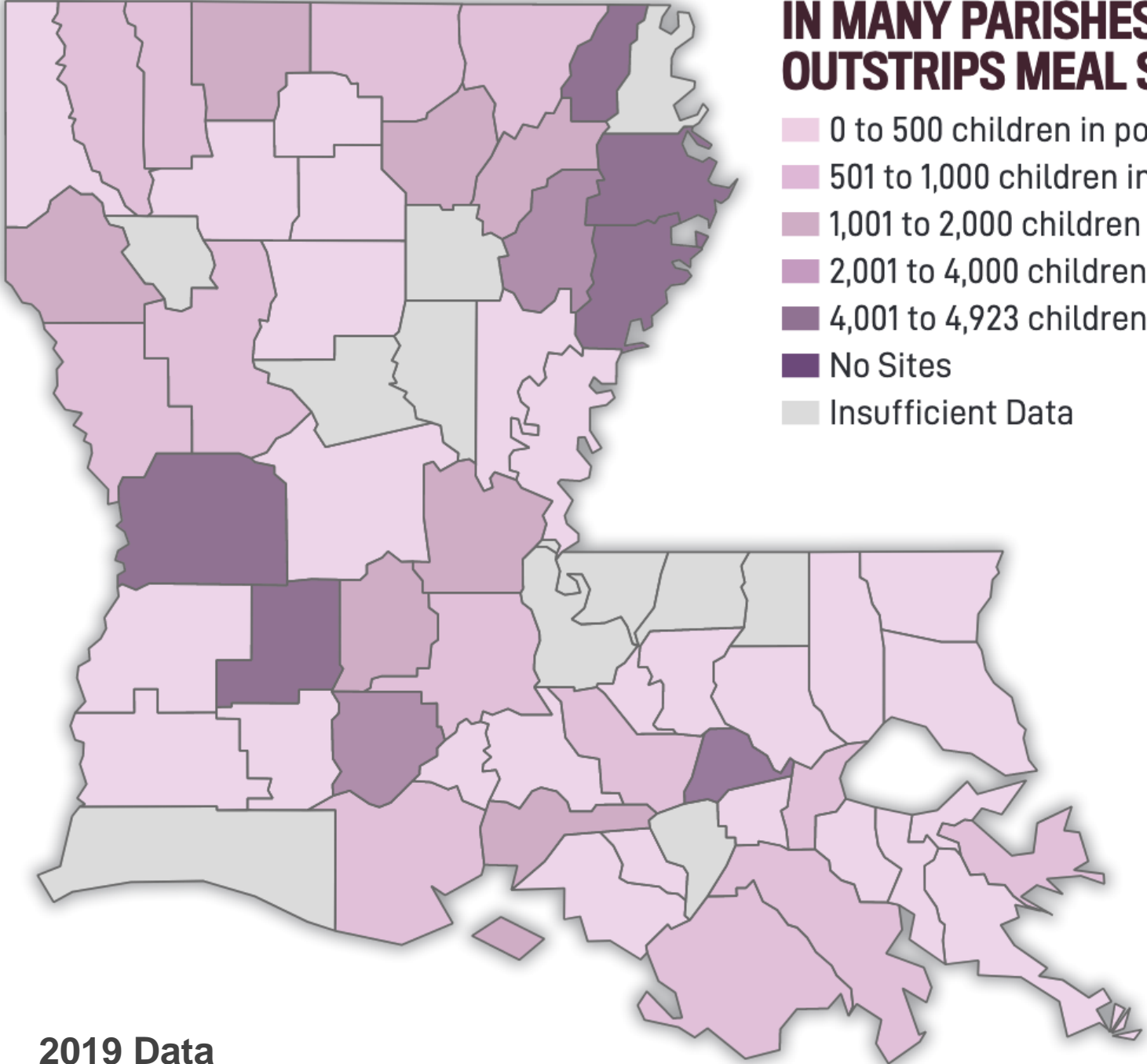
## Case Study: Summer Meals

### 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



2019 Data

**Practitioner voices matter!**



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# 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](https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org)

Click “Latest Resources” on the orange navigation bar!



### FEEDING A CROWD – TIPS FOR CONGREGATE MEAL SERVICE

Requiring children to eat meals onsite can be a challenge in the summer meals program, but it doesn't have to be! This resource provides strategies to make congregate meal service easier for site staff and improve the experience for children and families.

#### Location, Location, Location

Select a desirable location for your site. Consider where kids, teens, and families gather naturally during the summer months. Some ideas:

- Parks and pools
- Recreation centers and playgrounds
- Splash parks
- Libraries

You can also consider places where parents or caregivers might already be going with their children. Be sure to work with managers or owners wherever you consider. If they do not allow an open meal site, consider an adjacent parking lot. Some ideas:

- Pediatrician offices and WIC clinics
- Laundromats
- Popular shopping and grocery stores

**Tip!** Have incentives for families that regularly attend. Punch cards with a prize are a great way to maintain participation.

#### Don't Forget to Decorate!

Make the space welcoming and comfortable for all.

If outside, set up a tent if there is no shade, offer picnic tables or blankets, and provide cold water to all. If inside, let your creativity run wild. Streamers, posters, and balloons add fun to your site. Bean bag chairs? Why not?!

**Tip!** Now that your site is camera ready, why not create a photo booth? Encourage families to share photos and include your site information – a fun activity and a promotional opportunity in one!

# New Resource!

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

Available at: [bestpractices.nokidhungry.org](https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org)

Click “Latest Resources” on the orange navigation bar!



### Communicating With Parents and Families About Changes to Summer Meals 2022 Operations

This toolkit was created to help you communicate to families about changes to your summer meals program. It includes two sections of customizable content - one for [providers changing \(but still operating\)](#) a summer meals program and one for [providers ceasing summer meals operations](#).

For the most up-to-date information and resources on summer 2022 operations, please visit the [No Kid Hungry Center for Best Practices website](#).

This document features sample language, in both English & [Spanish](#), that you can use as-is or customize to best fit the needs of your school or organization.  
Just copy & paste!

#### For Programs Changing Operations

★ *Tip: If possible, communicate anticipated program changes to families ahead of summer's start. If [mid-summer](#) changes are anticipated, be sure to communicate with families again about program changes. In either case, include updates across multiple communication channels.*

Check your website to ensure that information about your summer meals program is up-to-date and easy for families to find.

- Ideally, this information should be located on the homepage.
- Make sure the information includes details about the times and locations of meals being served; any activities provided; and menus of planned meals.
- Be sure to include contact information so that families can reach out with any questions.

#### To Include on Posters and Flyers

The summer meals program is a federal program. Due to changes at the federal level, our program will be changing for summer 2022. We are no longer able to offer [\[TYPE OF MEAL - GRAB&GO/DELIVERY/PARENT PICK-UP/MULTI-DAY MEALS\]](#) but will be offering [\[MEAL TYPES\]](#) to kids and teens 18 and under. We are dedicated to still serving children and the community, and we plan to serve



# New Resource!

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

Available at: [bestpractices.nokidhungry.org](https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org)

Click “Latest Resources” on the orange navigation bar!

### Comparison of Usual Summer Meal Program Provisions vs. Expired Flexibilities Permitted in Response the COVID-19 Pandemic



USDA issued a suite of nationwide waivers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. **These waivers will not be available for summer 2022 SFSP/SSO operations.** Please follow the link to see the waiver language or review our [nationwide waiver summary chart](#) for the nationwide waivers referenced below. Contact your state agency for more information. This resource was last updated 3/29/2022.

Program	Provision	Usual Program Provisions	Expired COVID-19 Flexibilities
USDA	Waiver Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cannot issue nationwide waivers</li> <li>Cannot approve waiver requests that increase federal costs</li> <li>Cannot approve waiver requests related to the meal pattern / nutritional quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allowed to issue nationwide waivers</li> <li>Allowed to issue or approve waivers that increase federal costs</li> <li>Allowed to issue waivers from the meal pattern requirements if related to supply chain issues caused by COVID-19</li> </ul>
SFSP / SSO	Congregate (Group) Meal Service	Congregate meal service required (children must be served & eat each meal on site in a supervised setting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-congregate meal service allowed (waiver <a href="#">COVID-19 #75</a>)</li> <li>Parent meal pick-up on child's behalf was allowed with verification of eligible child (waiver <a href="#">COVID-19 #76</a>)</li> </ul>
	Meals Reimbursed	Per child per day, up to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breakfast + lunch/supper OR</li> <li>Any one meal + snack</li> </ul> *Different for camps and migrant sites	<b>SAME, except</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sites permitted to serve meals for multiple days at the same time (within usual per child per day limits)</li> </ul>
	Days of Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allows for weekend service and service up to seven days per week</li> <li>Allows for service on holidays during summer break or intersession breaks for students attending year-round schools</li> <li>Service during planned school closures or non-school days during the regular school year (like spring break) is <b>not</b> permitted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Spring 2020 when operators were utilizing SFSP/SSO under the unanticipated school closure provision, service during planned school closures and non-school days was permitted</li> <li>In School Year 2020-2021, serving meals through SFSP/SSO was permitted on any day regardless of school operating status</li> <li>In School Year 2021-2022, schools were permitted to serve meals through SSO on school days and during unanticipated closures. Use of SFSP was limited to unanticipated school closures</li> </ul>

# 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](http://www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/subscribe)

**Visit the CBP website:**

[www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org](http://www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org)



**THANK YOU**

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