SAMPLE STATE POLICY:

SUMMER MEALS PROCLAMATION AND RESOLUTION

**INTRODUCTION**

This resource provides state policymakers and advocates with sample language to use in a Gubernatorial Proclamation or Simple Resolution recognizing the importance of summer meals programs.

Consult the [*Companion Guide*](https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/resource/summer-meals-proclamation-and-resolution-sample-policies-companion-guide)[<https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/resource/summer-meals-proclamation-and-resolution-sample-policies-companion-guide>] for instructions and data to complete the state-specific information included in the proclamation and resolution.

**SAMPLE PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, summer is the hungriest time of year for many children when families struggle to make up for lost school meals and food insecurity tends to increase;[[1]](#footnote-1)and

**WHEREAS**, [PERCENT-COMPANION COLUMN B] children were food insecure in [STATE] in 2019,[[2]](#footnote-2) meaning that they did not have consistent access to adequate food for an active, healthy life; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated food insecurity, particularly among households with children and communities of color, and families continue to feel its effects; and

**WHEREAS**, children who are food insecure are more likely to miss school, perform worse academically, experience social, emotional, and mental health challenges, forego healthcare, and develop chronic disease;[[3]](#footnote-3) and

**WHEREAS**, the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option and the Summer Food Service Program, which are funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the [STATE AGENCY/AGENCIES – COMPANION COLUMN C (AND D)] in [STATE], play a vital role in helping low-income children get the nutrition they need during the summer months, and help alleviate food insecurity;[[4]](#footnote-4) and

**WHEREAS**, summer meal programs are most effective when paired with educational and enrichment activities, which provide students a fun, safe place to be with friends and stay active, help curb the learning loss experienced during the summer months, especially among low-income children, and prepare students to return to school ready to learn and thrive;[[5]](#footnote-5) and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 2.8 million children nationwide participated in summer meal programs on an average summer day in 2019; however, only [PERCENT – COMPANION COLUMN E] of eligible children participated in summer meals programs in [STATE] that year;[[6]](#footnote-6) and

**WHEREAS**, summer meal programs filled a critical need in communities during the COVID-19 pandemic thanks to program flexibilities that allowed them to adapt and provide nutritious meals to children facing hunger; and

**WHEREAS**, the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (Summer EBT) complements summer meal programs by providing an additional grocery benefit to families with children who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and likewise alleviates food insecurity and improves child nutrition;[[7]](#footnote-7) and

**WHEREAS**, my administration is committed to increasing awareness about summer meal programs and helping ensure that more kids have access to Summer Meal sites in [STATE] so no child goes hungry this summer.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, [FIRST NAME] [LAST NAME], Governor of [STATE], do hereby proclaim [MONTH] [DAY(S)], 2022 as SUMMER MEALS [DAY/WEEK/MONTH].

**SAMPLE RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, summer is the hungriest time of year for many children when families struggle to make up for lost school meals and food insecurity tends to increase;[[8]](#footnote-8)and

**WHEREAS**, [PERCENT-COMPANION COLUMN B] children were food insecure in [STATE] in 2019,[[9]](#footnote-9) meaning that they did not have consistent access to adequate food for an active, healthy life; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated food insecurity, particularly among households with children and communities of color, and families continue to feel its effects; and

**WHEREAS**, children who are food insecure are more likely to miss school, perform worse academically, experience social, emotional, and mental health challenges, forego healthcare, and develop chronic disease;[[10]](#footnote-10) and

**WHEREAS**, the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option and the Summer Food Service Program, which are funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the [STATE AGENCY/AGENCIES – COMPANION COLUMN C (AND D)] in [STATE], play a vital role in helping low-income children get the nutrition they need during the summer months, and help alleviate food insecurity;[[11]](#footnote-11) and

**WHEREAS**, summer meal programs are most effective when paired with educational and enrichment activities, which provide students a fun, safe place to be with friends and stay active, help curb the learning loss experienced during the summer months, especially among low-income children, and prepare students to return to school ready to learn and thrive;[[12]](#footnote-12) and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 2.8 million children nationwide participated in summer meal programs on an average summer day in 2019; however, only [PERCENT – COMPANION COLUMN E] of eligible children participated in summer meals programs in [STATE] that year;[[13]](#footnote-13) and

**WHEREAS**, summer meal programs filled a critical need in communities during the COVID-19 pandemic thanks to program flexibilities that allowed them to adapt and provide nutritious meals to children facing hunger; and

**WHEREAS**, the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (Summer EBT) complements summer meal programs by providing an additional grocery benefit to families with children who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and likewise alleviates food insecurity and improves child nutrition.[[14]](#footnote-14)

**THEREFORE, BE IT** **RESOLVED** by the [LEGISLATIVE BODY] of the state of [STATE] that we recognize the importance of addressing child food insecurity during the summer by expanding access to summer meals and Summer EBT;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the [STATE] [LEGISLATIVE BODY] expresses its appreciation to summer meal program sponsors, and all those staff and volunteers at neighborhood schools, community organizations, and youth camps who help implement summer meal programs in [STATE]; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the [STATE] [LEGISLATIVE BODY] calls on community organizations in [STATE] to consider being a summer meal program sponsor or meal site to help ensure that more kids have access to summer meals and no child goes hungry this summer.

1. Nord M, Romig K. Hunger in the Summer: Seasonal Food Insecurity and the National School Lunch and Summer Food Service Programs. *Journal of Children and Poverty*. 2016;12(2): 141-158. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Feeding America. *State-By-State Resource: The Impact of the Coronavirus on Food Insecurity*. 2021. <https://feedingamericaaction.org/resources/state-by-state-resource-the-impact-of-coronavirus-on-food-insecurity/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Shankar P, et al. Association of Food Insecurity with Children's Behavioral, Emotional, and Academic Outcomes: A Systematic Review. Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics. 2017;38(2):135-150; Thomas M, Miller D, Morrissey T. Food Insecurity and Child Health. Pediatrics. 2019;144 (4): e20190397; Laraia BA. Food insecurity and chronic disease. *Adv Nutr*. 2013;4(2):203-212. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Miller DP. Accessibility of Summer Meals and the Food Insecurity of Low-Income Households with Children. *Public Health Nutr*. 2016;19(11):2079-2089. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Augustine C, et al. *Learning from Summer: Effects of Voluntary Summer Learning Programs on Low-Income Urban Youth*. RAND Corporation. 2016. <https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1557.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Food Research & Action Center. *Hunger Doesn’t Take a Vacation: Summer Nutrition Status Report.* 2020. <https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/FRAC-Summer-Nutrition-Report-2020.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Collins AM, et al. *Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children (SEBTC) Demonstration: Summary Report*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. 2016. <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/ops/sebtcfinalreport.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Nord M, Romig K. Hunger in the Summer: Seasonal Food Insecurity and the National School Lunch and Summer Food Service Programs. *Journal of Children and Poverty*. 2016;12(2): 141-158. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Feeding America. *State-By-State Resource: The Impact of the Coronavirus on Food Insecurity*. 2021. <https://feedingamericaaction.org/resources/state-by-state-resource-the-impact-of-coronavirus-on-food-insecurity/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Shankar P, et al. Association of Food Insecurity with Children's Behavioral, Emotional, and Academic Outcomes: A Systematic Review. Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics. 2017;38(2):135-150; Thomas M, Miller D, Morrissey T. Food Insecurity and Child Health. Pediatrics. 2019;144 (4): e20190397; Laraia BA. Food insecurity and chronic disease. *Adv Nutr*. 2013;4(2):203-212. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Miller DP. Accessibility of Summer Meals and the Food Insecurity of Low-Income Households with Children. *Public Health Nutr*. 2016;19(11):2079-2089. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Augustine C, et al. *Learning from Summer: Effects of Voluntary Summer Learning Programs on Low-Income Urban Youth*. RAND Corporation. 2016. <https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1557.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Food Research & Action Center. *Hunger Doesn’t Take a Vacation: Summer Nutrition Status Report.* 2020. <https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/FRAC-Summer-Nutrition-Report-2020.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Collins AM, et al. *Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children (SEBTC) Demonstration: Summary Report*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. 2016. <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/ops/sebtcfinalreport.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)