

# Serving Up Solutions: Innovative Approaches to Delivering Non-Congregate Summer Meals in Rural Areas

**REIMAGINING  
RURAL**  
THE RURAL  
CHILD HUNGER  
SUMMIT 2023

## Housekeeping

- This session is being recorded.
- All recording will be available after the event.
- Closed captioning and language translation is available.
- Q&A will be at the end of this session. Please enter all questions into the Q&A box.



# Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Overview of Non-Congregate Summer Meals in Rural Areas - Paige Pokorney, Share Our Strength
- Making it Happen: Sponsor & Site Perspectives on Rural, Non-Congregate
  - **Brianna Fleming**, Child Nutrition Program Manager, Central Texas Food Bank, TX
  - **Walter Campbell**, Executive Director of Nutrition Services, Charleston County School District, SC
  - **Nancy Giddens**, Calaveras County Librarian, Calaveras County Library System, CA
- Q&A



## 2023 RURAL HUNGER SUMMIT

**Paige Pokorney**

Senior Program Manager, Center for Best Practices

Share Our Strength

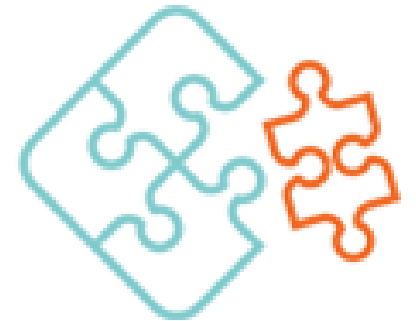


# SUMMER MEALS: THE BASICS

The **Summer Food Service Program** (SFSP) is a federally-funded, state-administered, and locally-sponsored program of the USDA that allows children to access nutritious meals free of charge when school is out. Schools have the option of serving summer meals through the **SFSP** or National School Lunch Program (NSLP) **Seamless Summer Option** (SSO).

## Program details (SFSP+SSO):

- Serves children 18 and under
- Meals are free...no sign-up, registration, or ID required
- Meals are served and consumed on site unless eligible for non-congregate meal service in rural areas
- Any child can participate if the site is located in an area with  $\geq 50\%$  eligible for free or reduced-price school meals
- Up to two meals/day can be served (for most sites)



# Summer Meals National Data

## 2021 vs 2019:

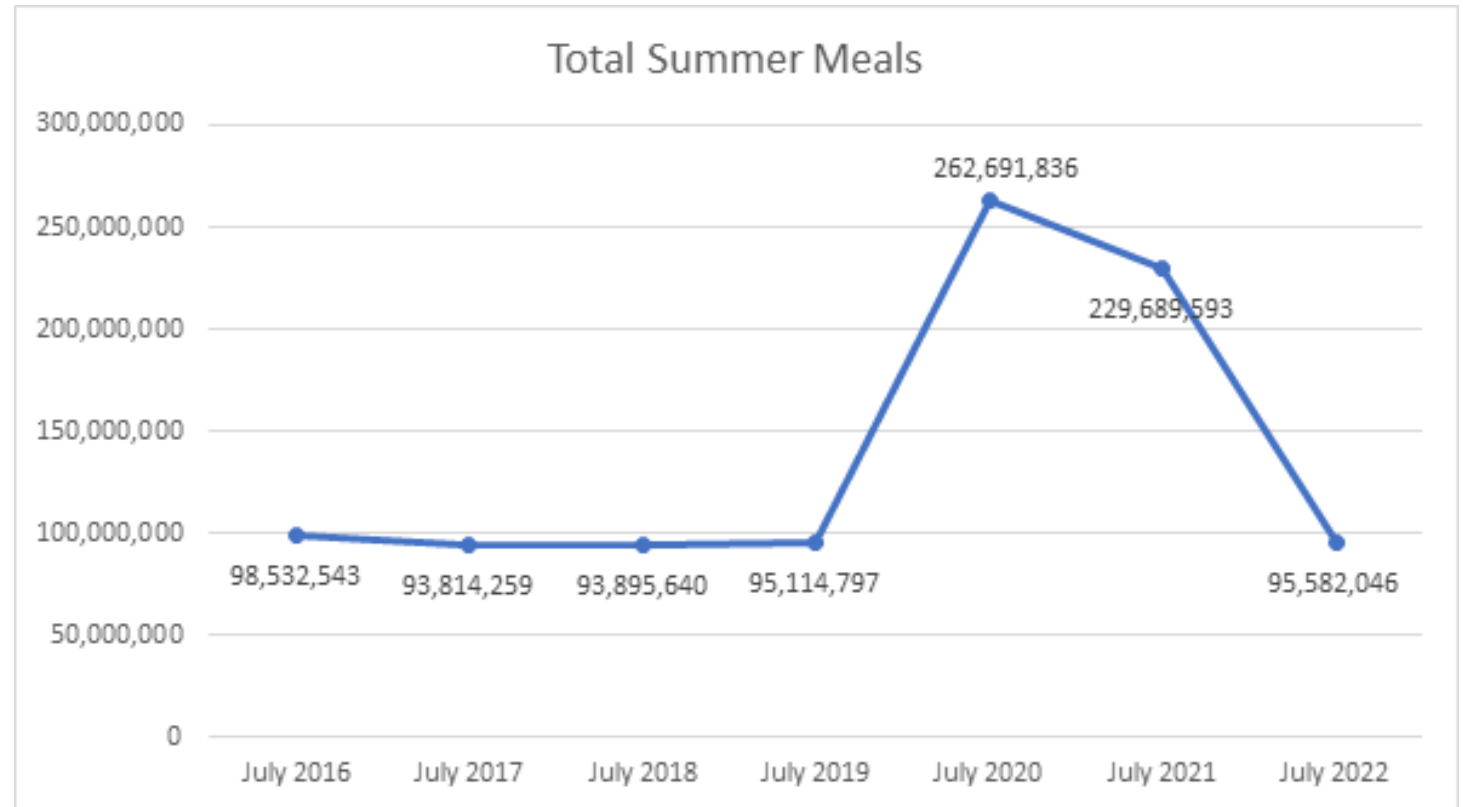
The number of meals served in July 2021 was **double** that of July 2019.

## 2021 vs 2020:

There was a **27% decrease** in summer meals from July 2020 to July 2021.

## 2022:

**Return to pre-pandemic participation levels**



# The Opportunity

**Congregate  
Summer Meals**

***New!*  
Rural Non-congregate  
Summer Meals**

***New!*  
Summer EBT  
(coming summer 2024)**





# USDA Guidance

[Implementation Guidance: Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas - Revised: Questions & Answers #1](#)

[Questions and Answers #2: Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas](#)

[Offering Multiple Meals as Part of Summer Non-Congregate Meal Service](#)



# Who can operate non-congregate meal service in rural areas?

In states where non-congregate meal service in rural areas is approved:

- Rural
- No congregate service
- SFSP and SSO sponsors in good standing

*Note: non-congregate is available to all children in area eligible locations and to identified children in non-area eligible locations.*





# Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas

## What is rural?

- Counties outside of [Metropolitan Statistical Areas](#)
  - To find rural and non-rural counties, use [USDA's Rural Designation mapper](#).
- “Pockets” within non-rural counties as identified and approved by state agencies and USDA
  - **No Kid Hungry's [Summer Meals Eligibility Map](#) highlights areas that may qualify for an expedited rural status approval under RUCA.** It also includes two other data sources, RUCC and UIC, that may be used to identify additional pockets.

## Access to Congregate Sites

- Defined by state agencies
- Allows for complementary services
  - A site can offer congregate meals Monday-Friday and non-congregate on the weekends
  - A site can offer a congregate breakfast and a lunch to-go

## What types of sponsors are eligible?

- Both schools and non-profit organizations
- SFSP and SSO programs





## Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas

### Allowable meal service models:

- Grab and go programs
  - Single location sites
  - Mobile meal routes
- Multiple days worth of meals (up to 10 days)
- Parent/guardian pick-up
- Direct home delivery

*Check with your state agency to see what is allowable!*

## Offering Multiple Meals

- Unitized or “bulk” style meals can be offered
- Total food amounts must meet the meal pattern requirements
- Consider food safety risk, access to kitchen appliances and tools, and caregiver time and availability
- Provide explicit instructions and intended meal plans for families

## Bulk Food Items

- Recognizable as a meal component
- Do not need much preparation or the addition of other ingredients (besides water) before eating

[USDA guidance](#) – *Please check with your state agency to see what is allowable!*





## Area Eligibility

- In area eligible locations ( $\geq 50\%$  free/reduced eligible), **all children** can be served non-congregate meals.
- In non-area eligible locations ( $< 50\%$  free/reduced eligible), non-congregate meals can be served to **children identified** as eligible for free or reduced price meals.

## Differences Across States

- Which states offered the rural non-congregate option. *Remember, states must opt into the flexibility each year.*
- Defining access to a congregate site
  - Distance from one site to another
  - Self-identified by sponsor
- Home delivery
- Parent/Guardian pick-up
- Number of days worth of meals allowed
- Eligibility of sponsor to operate non-congregate

***IMPORTANT! 2024 guidance and regulations may be different from 2023! Stay in close contact with your state agency this year to learn what is most up to date in your state.***



# Non-Congregate Resources from No Kid Hungry

## [Successful Non-Congregate Meal Service Models For Rural Areas: Implementation Guide](#)

## [Grab & Go Success Stories - Missoula Food Bank & Community Center, Montana](#)

## [Grab & Go Success Stories - Lowcountry Food Bank, South Carolina](#)



### Successful Non-Congregate Meal Service Models for Rural Areas: Implementation Guide

In approved states beginning summer 2023, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and NSLP Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sponsors can operate non-congregate programs in rural communities without access to a congregate meal site. Find more information in [USDA's Implementation Guidance for Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas](#).

This resource outlines effective models for non-congregate meal service. Use this guide to find strategies and tactics to execute a successful non-congregate summer meals program in your rural community.

*Please reach out to your state agency to confirm the availability of non-congregate meal service and allowable models. Note: States are not required to make the non-congregate option available this summer. State agencies had to submit a plan to USDA for approval by April 1, 2023 to allow non-congregate meal service in summer 2023.*

#### Sections of this Implementation Guide

- [Definitions](#)
- [Considerations for Non-Congregate Meal Service](#)
- [Meal Distribution Models](#)
  - [Drive Thru or Curbside Pick-Up](#)
  - [Walk-Up Distribution](#)
  - [Mobile Route Distribution](#)
  - [Direct Home Delivery](#)
- [Meal Distribution Logistics](#)
- [Communication](#)
- [Partnerships and Additional Services](#)



# Resources from No Kid Hungry

## Summer Meals Outreach Toolkit

- Sample social media posts
- Website blurbs
- Customizable flyers
- Template letters to caregivers
- Template FAQs

*All in English and Spanish!*



# No Kid Hungry Texting Line and Free Meal Finder Map

Families can text “FOOD” or “COMIDA” to  
304-304

to find the nearest summer meals site!

Or they can visit [NoKidHungry.org/Help](https://NoKidHungry.org/Help)  
or [NoKidHungry.org/Ayuda](https://NoKidHungry.org/Ayuda) for our interactive  
Free Meal Finder map of summer meals sites.

Families can also visit  
[NoKidHungry.org/WhatsApp](https://NoKidHungry.org/WhatsApp) to access the meal  
finder via WhatsApp.

**TEXTEE**  
**'COMIDA'**  
  **AL**    
**304-304**





# 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)

## 2023 RURAL HUNGER SUMMIT

**Brianna Fleming**

Child Nutrition Program Manager

Central Texas Food Bank, TX



# 2023 RURAL HUNGER SUMMIT

## Central Texas Food Bank - Who Are We?

- Our Partner Agency Network spans 21 counties in Central Texas.



# 2023 RURAL HUNGER SUMMIT

## Central Texas Food Bank - How Does It Work?



# 2023 RURAL HUNGER SUMMIT

## SFSP - Summer Meals Program Overview

Total: 50 Summer Meal Sites

Rural Non-Congregate Sites: 5

- Waco
- Bastrop
- Leander
- Pflugerville

Logistics:

- Garden Team
- On-Site Kitchen (Chef, Sous-Chef, and Cooks)
- Transportation Team



# 2023 RURAL HUNGER SUMMIT

## SFSP - Rural Non-Congregate Recruitment



- CTFB has 243 Partner Agencies (PAs)
  - Of the 243 PAs, 162 are located rurally
- Requirements:
  - Existing Infrastructure (summer programming, pantry, community events)
  - Staffing/Community Champions
  - Enthusiasm!
- Option to choose Breakfast, Lunch, or Afternoon Snack
- Training, and on-site prep!



# 2023 RURAL HUNGER SUMMIT

## SFSP - Rural Non-Congregate Distribution

Every site distributed meals differently:

- Door to Door Delivery
- Grab and Go
- Brick and Mortar Pantry or Mobile Pantry Distribution

Sites did not distribute meals via:

- Multi-Day Pickup
- Parent/Guardian Pickup



# 2023 RURAL HUNGER SUMMIT

## SFSP - Rural Non-Congregate in the Future?

- Early Recruitment!
- Meal Variety
- Multi-Day Distribution
- Distribution Hubs?
- Frozen Meals?



## 2023 RURAL HUNGER SUMMIT

**Walter Campbell**

Executive Director of Nutrition Services  
Charleston County School District, SC



# Charleston County School District



Covering over 1,300 square miles and  
50,000 students !



This is why we do it !

# Congregate covers most of our County



10 Central Sites

125 Camps



Partnerships

Lowcountry Food Bank

City of Charleston

City of North Charleston



Libraries across the County

# Who is going to sale this ship ?



## WHAT TO CONSIDER:

- Which sites ?
- The Menu
- Packaging
- How do we get the message out?
- Accountability
- Easy of signing up
- Follow-up
- Food Safety
- Instructions
- Staffing



# Delivery or Pickup ?????



# The Menu

## CCSD SUMMER MEALS 2023

### Monday Breakfast

Froot Loops Cereal Kit  
Milk

### Lunch

Crispy Chicken Bites (5)  
Kernel Corn  
Cool Ranch Doritos  
Fresh Fruit  
Milk

### Tuesday Breakfast

Lucky Charms Cereal Kit  
Milk

### Lunch

Pretzel Dog  
Carrot Sticks  
Nacho Doritos  
Fruit Juice  
Milk

### Wednesday Breakfast

Trix Cereal Kit  
Milk

### Lunch

Pepperoni Pizza  
Broccoli Florets  
Fresh Fruit  
Spicy Sweet Chili Doritos  
Milk

### Thursday Breakfast

Apple Jacks Cereal Kit  
Milk

### Lunch

Hamburger  
Baked Beans  
Nacho Doritos  
Fruit Juice  
Milk

### Friday Breakfast

Frosted Flakes Cereal Kit  
Milk

### Lunch

Beef & Cheese Burrito  
Celery Sticks  
Fresh Fruit  
Cool Ranch Doritos  
Milk

**\*Additional fruits and vegetables will be available upon request  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider**



## 2023 Summer Meal Bundles



SCAN ME

Scan the QR code to register  
Program runs 6/12/23 - 8/3/23

Call (843)-566-8180 if you have any questions

### Weekly Pickup Locations

Mondays	Tuesdays	Thursdays	Thursdays
Starting 6/12	Starting 6/13	Starting 6/15	Starting 6/15
<b>John's Island</b>	<b>Edisto/Adams Run</b>	<b>Wiltown/Hollywood</b>	<b>Mount Pleasant</b>
Mt. Zion	Jane Edwards	Wiltown Community	Wando CAS School
Elementary	Elementary	Center	12:30-1:00pm
12:30-1:00pm	10:00-10:30am	10:00-10:30am	
	Adams Run Civic	Baptist Hill	
	Center	Middle/High School	
	11:15-11:45am	11:00-11:30am	

**Who can participate?** All Charleston County residents up to age 18, who are not currently enrolled in a CCSD summer program. Registration is required. Scan the QR code to get registered today!

**What comes in a bundle?** Five pre-packaged meals that include fresh fruits, vegetables, and white or chocolate milk. Just heat and eat.

- Meal 1: Hamburger with chips
- Meal 2: Pretzel Dog with chips
- Meal 3: Nardone's Pepperoni Pizza
- Meal 4: Tyson Chicken Bites with chips
- Meal 5: Beef and Cheese Burrito

\*Assorted Breakfast Kits Also Provided\*

Charleston County SCHOOL DISTRICT

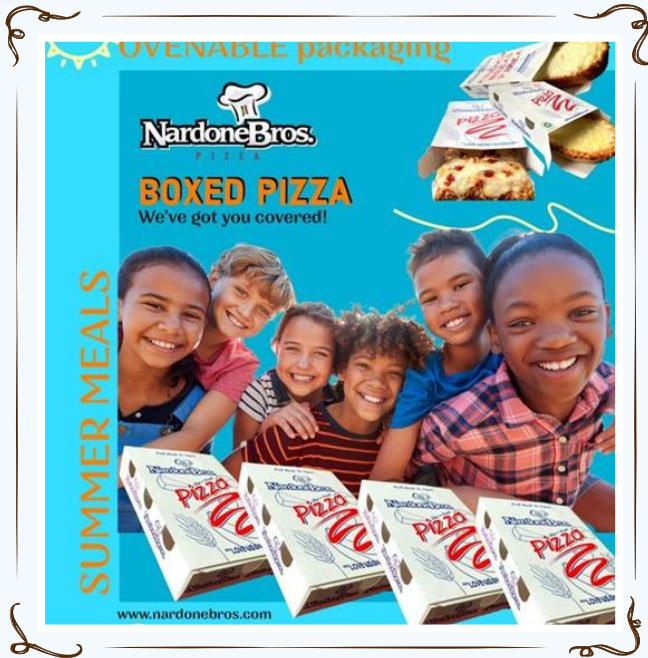
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STUDENTS ARE  
THE HEART  
OF OUR WORK!





# Pre-packaged or Semi-Scratch ???



# Five Days of Breakfast and Lunch



# Getting the message out

## <https://ccsdschoolmeals.com/>



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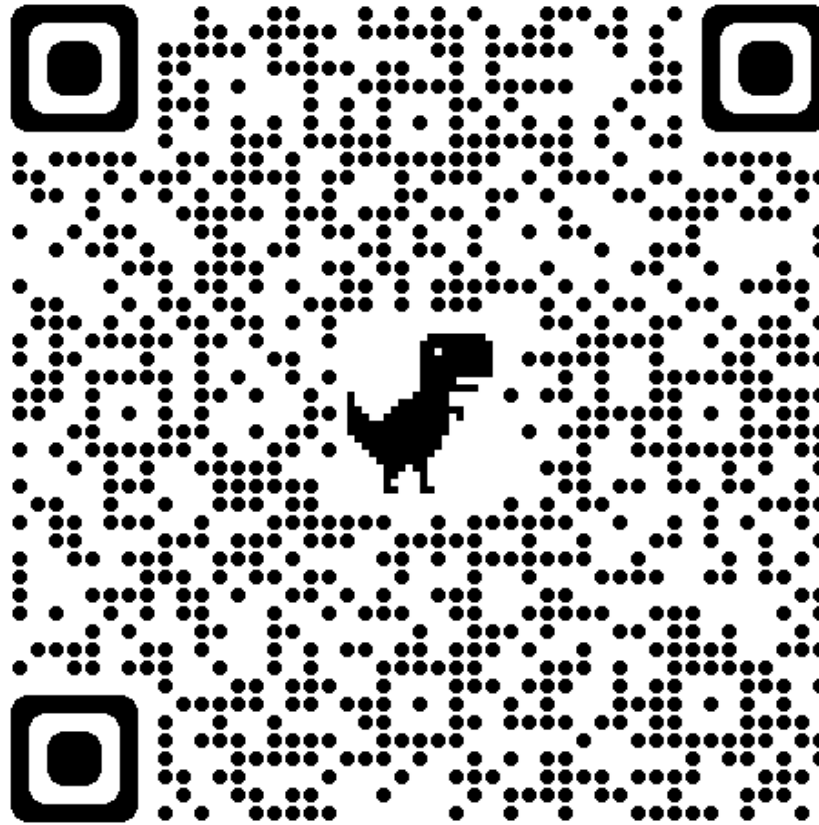
\*Assorted Breakfast Kits Also Provided\*

Charleston County SCHOOL DISTRICT

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STUDENTS ARE THE HEART OF OUR WORK!



### Paquetes de comidas de verano 2023



SCAN ME

Escanea el código QR para registrarte  
 El programa se ejecuta del 12/6/23 al 3/8/23  
 Llame al (843)-566-8180 si tiene alguna pregunta

### Ubicaciones de recogida semanal

los lunes	martes	jueves	jueves
A partir del 6/12	A partir del 13/6	A partir del 15/6	A partir del 15/6
<b>isla de juan</b>	<b>Carrera Edisto/Adams</b>	<b>Wiltown/Hollywood</b>	<b>monte agradable</b>
Monte Sión Primaria	Primaria Jane Edwards	Centro Comunitario de Wiltown	Escuela Wando CAS
12:30-13:00	10:00-10:30 a.m.	10:00-10:30 a.m.	12:30-13:00
	Centro cívico Adams Run	Escuela intermedia/preparatoria Baptist Hill	
	11:15-11:45 a.m.	11:00-11:30 a.m.	

**¿Quién puede participar?** Todos los residentes del condado de Charleston hasta la edad de 18 años, que actualmente no están inscritos en un programa de verano de CCSD. Es necesario registrarse. ¡Escanea el código QR para registrarte hoy!

**¿Qué viene en un paquete?** Cinco comidas preenvasadas que incluyen frutas frescas, verduras y leche blanca o chocolatada. Solo calienta y come.

- Comida 1: Hamburguesa con patatas fritas
- Comida 2: Pretzel Dog con papas fritas
- Comida 3: pizza de pepperoni de Nardone
- Comida 4: bocaditos de pollo Tyson con papas fritas
- Comida 5: Burrito de carne y queso

\*También se proporcionan kits de desayuno variados\*

STUDENTS ARE THE HEART OF OUR WORK!

Charleston County SCHOOL DISTRICT

Esta institución es un proveedor de igualdad de oportunidades.



What if something goes wrong ?



# What's on the horizon? Sending Frozen Meals Home ?



Another option



# Staffing

**Join Our Team!**

Walk In Interviews Every  
Wednesday, 2:30pm-4:30pm

3999 Bridgeview Drive, Building 1005  
N. Charleston, SC 29405



**Employee Benefits**

- Excellent work/life balance
- Starting Pay \$17/hour
- Now Hiring all positions for the 23-24 School Year
- No nights or weekends
- Summers Off

Call (843) 566-8180  
Apply Online Today!



SCAN ME

**Office of Nutrition Services**  
Charleston County SCHOOL DISTRICT  
excellence is our standard

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



**WE'RE HIRING**  
JOIN OUR TEAM

**Walk In Interviews**  
Minimum hourly wages start  
at \$17.00/HR

**Every Wednesday: Time: 2:30pm - 4:30pm**

**Location:** Charleston County School District/Bridgeview Campus Office of Nutrition Services 3999 Bridge View Drive, Trailer #1005 North Charleston, SC 29405

**Look for Job Fair Sign.** Pull up to the gate and ask to be buzzed in for an interview. We are the first trailer on the right, the parking lot is across from us.

Our job vacancies and application link are available at [www.ccsdschools.com/job\\_opportunities](http://www.ccsdschools.com/job_opportunities)

**STUDENTS ARE THE HEART OF OUR WORK!**

Charleston County SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Join Our Team**

Walk In  
Wednesdays  
2:30p.m.-4:30p.m.



Location: CCSD District Office at Bridgeview Campus, Office of Nutrition Services, 3999 Bridgeview Drive, Trailer #1005 North Charleston, SC 29405

**Starting at \$17/hour!**

- \*No Weekends or Late Nights
- \*Most holidays off
- \*Now accepting applications for the 23-24 school year!

Apply Online at [www.ccsdschools.com/job\\_opportunities](http://www.ccsdschools.com/job_opportunities)

# Staffing- you can't have a great program unless you have a great team .....

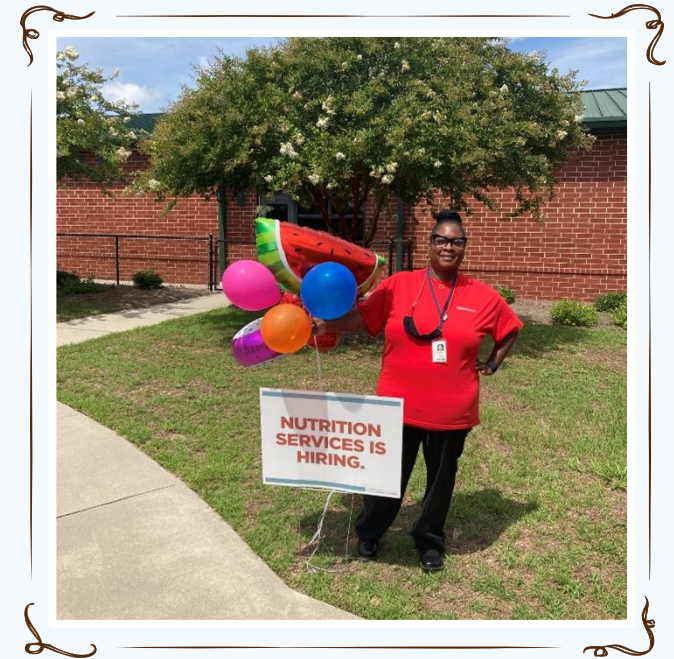


First Annual Walk to Work Day!



Make it FUN !

Fun is Good !



Get out in your community !



Charleston > excellence is our standard  
County SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nutrition Services

# MEET OUR SUMMER INTERNS!

WE ARE THRILLED TO HAVE THEM JOIN US AND LEARN ALL ABOUT CHILD NUTRITION SERVICES!



**Karen**

She is excited for this internship where she can gain experience working. She is thankful for this opportunity.



**Ben**

He is very excited for his nutrition services internship where he will meet new people and gain working experience



**Zian**

She is excited for this opportunity. She hopes to meet new people and have fun.





# Free Lunch Program

## Charleston County School District

1

**CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL STUDENTS**

### FREE MEAL BUNDLES

2023 Summer Meal Bundles Starts: Thursday, June 15, 2023

## Hamlin Beach Community Students

2

**ACTIVELY ENROLLED STUDENTS 18 YRS AND UNDER**

### EVERY THURSDAY: 11AM - 1:00 PM

Coakley Chapel  
2749 Atlanta Dr.  
Mt. Pleasant SC 29466.

## Just heat and eat!

3

**EACH STUDENT 5 DAYS OF PREPACKAGED MEALS, VEGETABLES, FRUITS AND MILK**

### ASSORTED BREAKFAST KIT INCLUDED

1. Hamburger with chips
2. Pretzel dog with chips
3. Nardonels Pepperoni Pizza
4. Tyson chicken bites with chips beef and cheese burrito

## Registration Required

4

**CALL OR TEXT (843) 566-5629 EMAIL: SEE BELOW**

### REQUIRED INFORMATION

1. Parent/Guardian Name
2. Address / Phone / Email
3. Student Name, Age, School

**HAMLINBEACHCOMMUNITY@GMAIL.COM**

# Some final points

- Accountability
- When do we start
- What if plans
- The costs of starting up
- Partnerships

# Thank you .....Note



When is the last time you wrote someone a thank you note.



Get the entire community involved



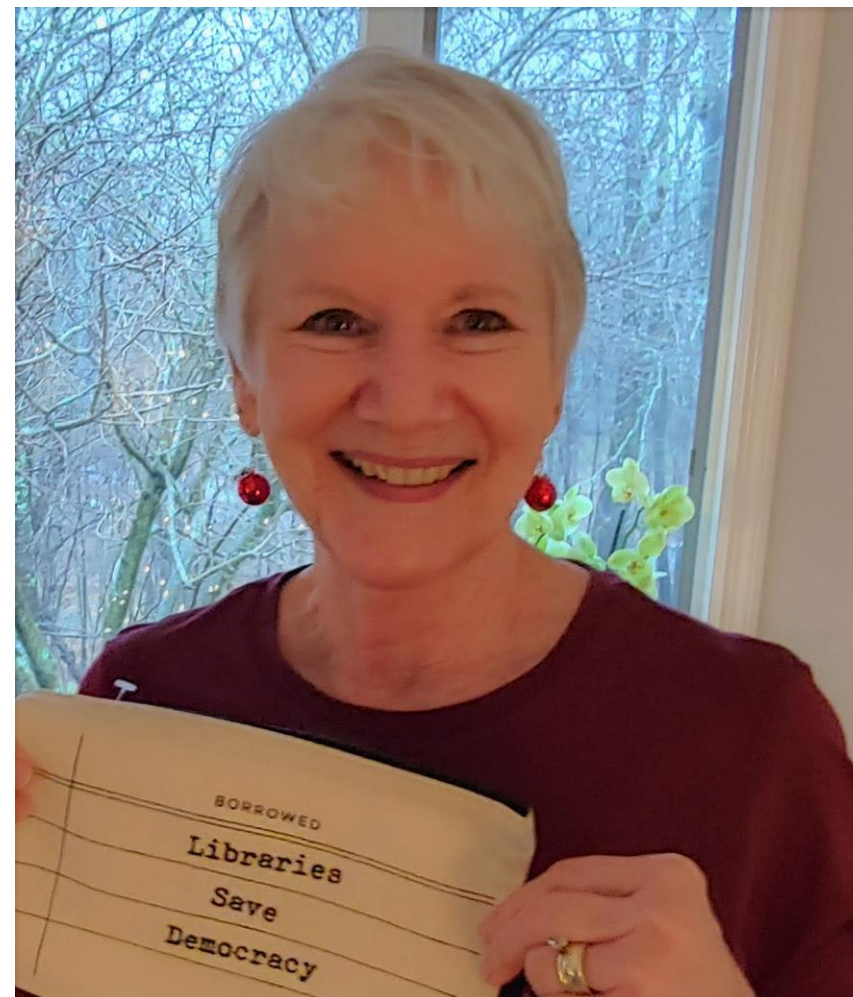
Start today and right just one thank you note

## 2023 RURAL HUNGER SUMMIT

**Nancy Giddens**

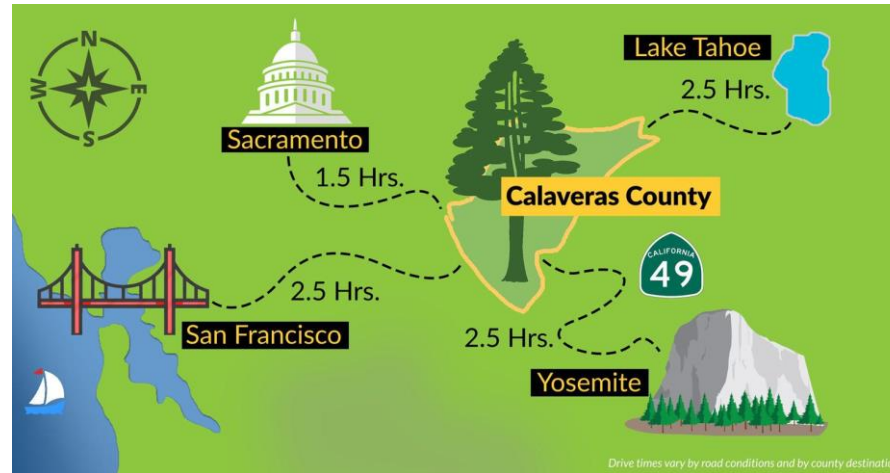
Calaveras County Librarian

Calaveras County Library System, CA



# Calaveras County Library San Andreas, California





**46,200 citizens**

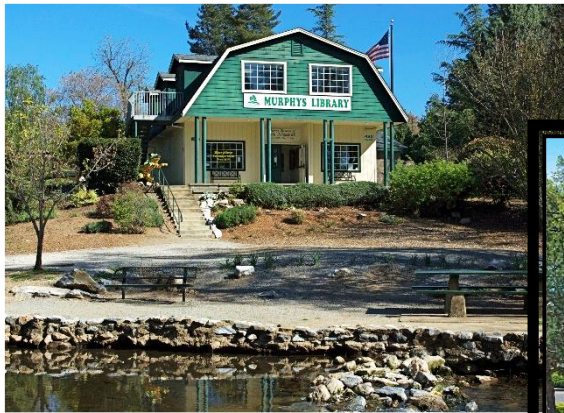
**1037 square miles – varied terrain**

**77% white, 13% Hispanic, 10% Multi-Racial,**  
Native American, Asian, Afro-American, Asian

17% poverty rate average – 55% of children  
qualify for school lunch



# Calaveras County Library System



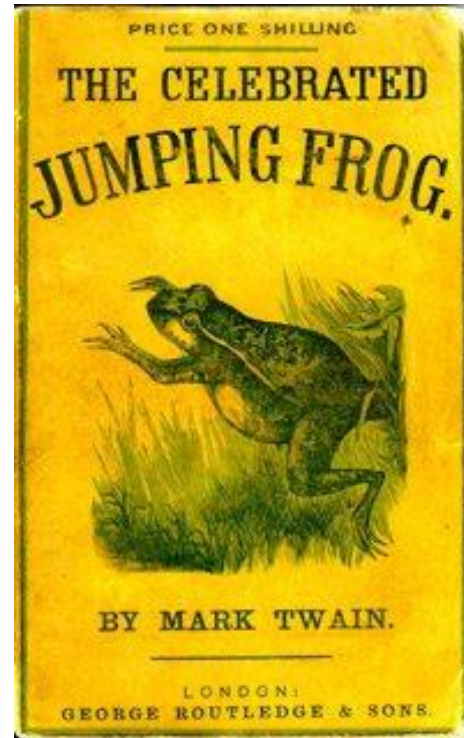
# Big Trees State Park



Home of the Giant Sequoia



# Wineries and The Celebrated Jumping Frog Annual Celebration





## The California Lunch at the Library Journey...

2013

California Library Association  
California Summer Meal Coalition



### Funding from

Packard Foundation  
Food Research and Action  
Albertsons Foundation  
National League of Cities  
California Endowment  
California State Library

### Summer 2013

17 public library sites  
21,870 meals served



# WHY AT THE LIBRARY?

- ❑ **Trusted community spaces**
- ❑ **Highly valued by residents, particularly among low-income, lower-education households**

(Source: Pew Research)



- ❑ **Summer reading program, activities, and resources to complement the meal service.**

Rapid growth in California...

2013 – 17 Public Library Sites  
21,870 meals served

2017 – 164 Public Library Sites  
228,500 meals served

2018- California State Library took over the program

MY Lunch at the Library Journey begins!

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

California Library Association &  
California Summer Meal Coalition



Lunch at the Library provides library staff with the tools and support they need to develop successful public library summer meal programs that provide children and teens in low-income communities with free and nutritious lunches through the USDA Summer Food Service Program. In addition to summer meals, Lunch at the Library sites provide participants with a safe and welcoming space, learning and enrichment opportunities, and an introduction to the library's diverse services and resources.

[Learn more](#)

Lunch at the Library

February 6th, 2018

2018 – Failure

2019 – Failure

2020 – Success!

Amador Unified School District

Cold lunches/breakfast

COVID – Cold Grab-and-go

for non-congregate service

Daily lunch service began –

Grant from CSL – transportation; staff

San Andreas Central Library

1,397 lunches

West Point Branch Library

1,222 lunches

2,619 lunches distributed in 29 days

600 books and learning packets distributed



2021- COVID protocols still in place – non-congregate allowed

Added two sites: Mokelumne Hill Branch Library

Rail Road Flat Home School Cooperative Pop-

Up

4,077 lunches served

2022 – Non-congregate ended in June

3 weeks of non-congregate – 2,083 lunches

3 weeks of congregate – 291 in 4 locations

Total 2,374

2023 – Planned for non-congregate

End of March – law changed – CSL grant – 4 teens, 1 adult

Expanded to 6 sites:

Added: Angels Camp Branch Library

Valley Springs Branch Library

Used Bookmobile to deliver to 3 other library sites wee

Served 5,547 lunches in 28 days! Over 1,000 books given.







# 2023 - ALL Branch Libraries Served!





## Nutrition classes and healthy snack creations



## Library Garden

and

## Healthy Living Kits for check-out



# California State Libraries 2022

**263,487**

meals served\*



**171**

library meal sites



**406**

pop-up sites



**5,437**

programs at summer meal sites



**111,378**

books to families



Summer 2024

From our California State Legislature:

**\$5 million in ongoing funding for Lunch at the Library.** Funding was increased this year from \$1 million to \$5 million and the fact that the funding will now be “ongoing” in nature (rather than a one-time appropriation) allows public libraries to be able to plan their programs year-to-year.

In Calaveras County:

Continue service of this year – 6 daily, 3 weekly

Working on plan for more-than-one-day pick-up for all sites

Increasing cold storage

Improve marketing to schools

2023 RURAL HUNGER SUMMIT

# Q&A



# 2023 RURAL HUNGER SUMMIT

## THANK YOU

**Paige Pokorney, MPH**

Senior Program Manager,  
Center for Best Practices

[ppokorney@strength.org](mailto:ppokorney@strength.org)

