

Welcome!

We'll get started soon. While we wait for other attendees to join, please answer this question in the chat box:

What state are you planning to serve Rural Non-Congregate Summer Meals in?



Schools Bringing Summer Meals to Kids: Lessons Learned & Promising Practices from Non-Congregate Feeding in 2023

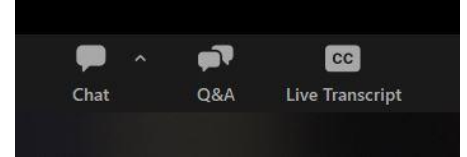
Thursday March 21, 2024





Things to Know as We Begin

- The slide deck will be shared via email after the webinar along with the recording.
- Closed captioning is available.
- To engage with other attendees, please use the chat box.
- If you have questions for the speakers, please enter those into the Q&A box.





Agenda

Welcome & Introductions

Overview of Rural Non-Congregate 2023

- Marissa Spady MS, RD - Senior Manager, State Campaigns, No Kid Hungry campaign, Share Our Strength

School Nutrition Teams Making it Happen with Rural Non-Congregate Meal Programs

- Lynsi Barnhill, Director of Nutrition Services, Paducah Public Schools, Kentucky
- Peggy Hamby, Director of Food and Nutrition, Morgan County Schools, Tennessee
- Beth Brewster, Supervisor of Food Services, Caroline County Public Schools & Founder of Chesapeake Culinary Center, Maryland

Moderated Q&A

Resources





Overview of Rural Non-Congregate Summer Meals in 2023



Background

Advocates across the country have been pushing for greater flexibility in summer meals to meet the need.



2010

2010-2013

Demonstrations approved by Congress

Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act is passed and includes summer demonstration projects, including non-congregate feeding

2020

2021

2022

Pandemic Waivers

Schools and nonprofits offered non-congregate meals through summer 2020, 2021, and 2022.

2023

Launch of Rural Non-Congregate

Summer Meals National Data

2020 & 2021:

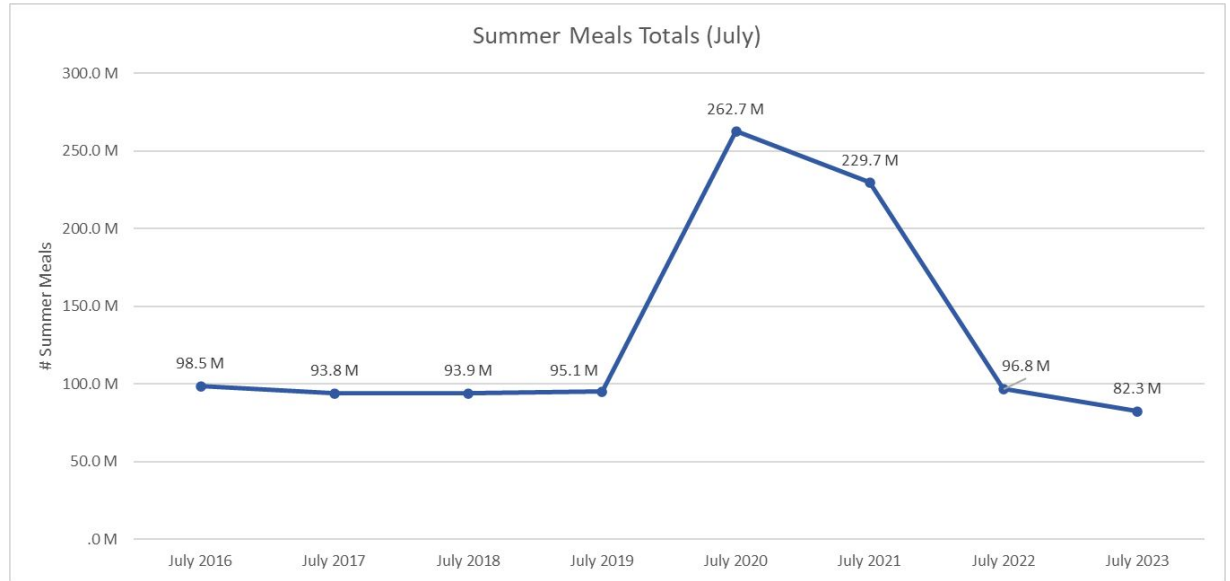
A significant spike in meals served due to pandemic-related flexibilities

2022:

Return to pre-pandemic participation levels

2023:

National participation is at its lowest point in over 10 years



While national 2023 data shows a decline in meals served, we know 2023 rural non-congregate service varied from state to state. No Kid Hungry has requested more detailed data to understand where increases and decreases occurred at the state level.

USDA Guidance

December 2022: [Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023](#) authorized permanent option for non-congregate summer meals in rural areas without congregate service.

Winter/Spring 2023: USDA issued temporary guidance based on past pilots to guide summer 2023 implementation in states that opted in.

December 2023: USDA issued its [Interim Final Rule](#) (IFR): Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs.

Took immediate effect to guide implementation in Summer 2024

Open for [public comment](#) until April 29, 2024 to inform a future final rule

This [resource](#) details what's in the IFR. Just want highlights? Our related resource, [Interim Final Rule on Non-Congregate Summer Meals: Top Takeaways for Operators](#), is a 2-page summary of key points with a focus on differences from 2023 guidance.

SERVICE MODELS

Distribution

- **Grab N' Go –**
 - walk-up
 - curbside
 - hybrid
- **Mobile meals**
- **Home-delivery**

Meal Distribution Rationale	# of Grantees	% of Grantees
Current USDA/state guidance	69	66%
Distance between families/sites	68	65%
Family access to transportation	64	62%
Staff capacity	60	58%
Funding available	45	43%
Family preferences	34	33%
Equipment	31	30%
Population groups	26	25%
Partnerships	26	25%
Family safety	20	19%
Staff safety	16	15%
Procurement	10	10%
Other	2	2%

Bontrager, A., & Dunphey, K. (2023). "2023 Summer Non-Congregate Grants Analysis." Internal Report. November 27, 2023.

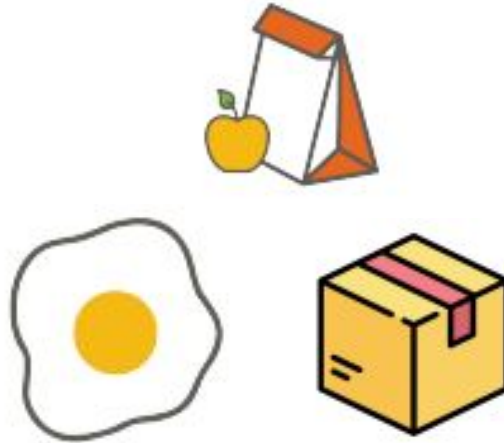
MEALS + MENUS

Packaged

- Bundled
- Bulk
- Unitized

Meal Type

- Hot
- Refrigerated
- Frozen
- Shelf Stable



OPERATIONS + LOGISTICS



Staffing:

- Site-staff
- Drivers
- Part-time support
- Volunteers
- Partner Organizations



Transportation:

- Retrofitted vans + food trucks
- School buses/vehicles
- Reimbursements
- Rentals



Summer Planning with the Caregiver Insights in Mind

- Participants celebrated receiving multiple meals
 - “I’m glad that we didn’t have to go eat at the locations because being in the summer, not everyone is always hungry at the same time. Not everybody always wants to eat the same things. So, sometimes they have the little cheeseburger sliders. Well, this one next to me doesn’t eat those. She loves the grilled cheese sandwiches. And the one next to her loves the sliders, so she will probably eat all the grilled cheese sandwiches and she will eat all the sliders. It’s kinda nice when we can take them home because then we can use them as we need them. And everybody gets to eat what they like whereas if we were at the location one of them would probably be like, ‘You know what, this isn’t my favorite, so I’m not going to eat that today.’ So, I actually love that we can pick it up and take it home and eat it as we need it.”
- Participants preferred a delivery model
 - “Delivery would be helpful....That would be immensely helpful. Saving money on gas driving out here. I live on the far side...so it’s about a twenty-five minute drive each way. And then not having to rely on my little sister to help get my daughter ready.”



Caregiver Insights



- We can continue to improve how we communicate with families about non-congregate meals

“The food is good and it’s free. I’m not sure they all know about it. I don’t know that it’s being widely used....I expected it to be harder and that they would have to check my name off or do a million other things but they gave me food. They wanted to see if I really had kids, but that’s ok because they were in my car....They are so nice and I just drove through and showed I had kids and they don’t push any buttons. They don’t make you feel embarrassed.”



Lynsi Barnhill
Director of Nutrition Services,
Paducah Public Schools,
Kentucky



SOLUTIONS TAILORED TO CIRCUMSTANCE

6 SCHOOLS
3,000 STUDENTS



241,040 MEALS

BREAKFAST
LUNCH
SUPPER
SNACK



TORNADO TAKEOUT

20+ SITES

11 MOBILE DELIVERY

7 DAYS OF MEALS

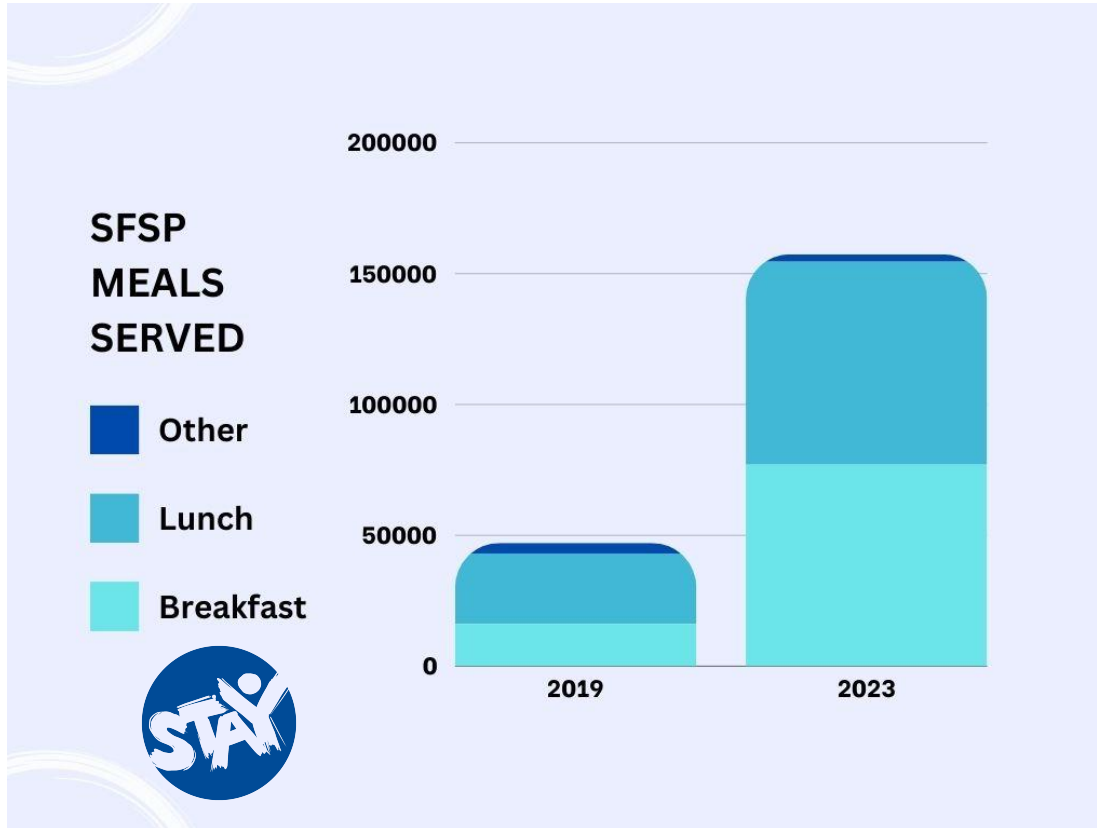


PADUCAH
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

each and every child by name and need



INNOVATING ACCESS



2019 vs. 2023

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

FREE SUMMER MEALS!
ANYONE 0-18

TORNADO TAKEOUT

PICKUP AT PADUCAH MIDDLE CAFE
Tuesday and Thursday | 10:30-12:30

DELIVERY TO THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
Tuesday and Thursday:

CARDINAL POINT	9:30-9:45 AM
PADUCAH PLACE	9:50-10:15 AM
ROTARY PARK	10:30-10:50 AM
ELMWOOD COURT	11:05-11:25 AM
DOLLY MCNUTT	11:40-12:00 PM
ELLA MUNAL COURT	11:2:15-12:35 PM
ANDERSON COURT	12:45-1:05 PM
MCCRACKEN CO. LIBRARY	11:15-11:35 AM
ROBERT COLEMAN PARK	11:45-12:15 PM
LANGSTAFF PARK	12:20-12:40 PM

STAY PADUCAH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

lynsl...
This institu...

JUNE 26-JULY 27
FREE SUMMER MEALS!
ANYONE 0-18

TORNADO TAKEOUT

PICKUP AT PADUCAH MIDDLE CAFE
TUESDAY+THURSDAY | 10:30-12:30

DELIVERY TO THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
TUESDAY + THURSDAY:

CARDINAL POINT	9:30-9:45 AM
PADUCAH PLACE	9:50-10:15 AM
ROTARY PARK	10:30-10:50 AM
ELMWOOD COURT	11:05-11:25 AM
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ELLA MUNAL	11:2:15-12:35 PM
ANDERSON COURT	12:45-1:05 PM
MCCRACKEN CO. LIBRARY	11:15-11:35 AM
ROBERT COLEMAN PARK	11:45-12:15 PM
LANGSTAFF PARK	12:20-12:40 PM



TEXT 'FOOD' TO 304-304

NO KID HUNGRY



- SOCIAL MEDIA
-
- INFOGRAPHICS
-
- COMMUNITY PARTNERS
-
- DREAM TEAM

FREE SUMMER MEALS COMIDAS GRATIS DURANTE EL VERANO





Peggy Hamby
Director of Food and Nutrition,
Morgan County Schools,
Tennessee





Morgan County Schools
FOOD & NUTRITION

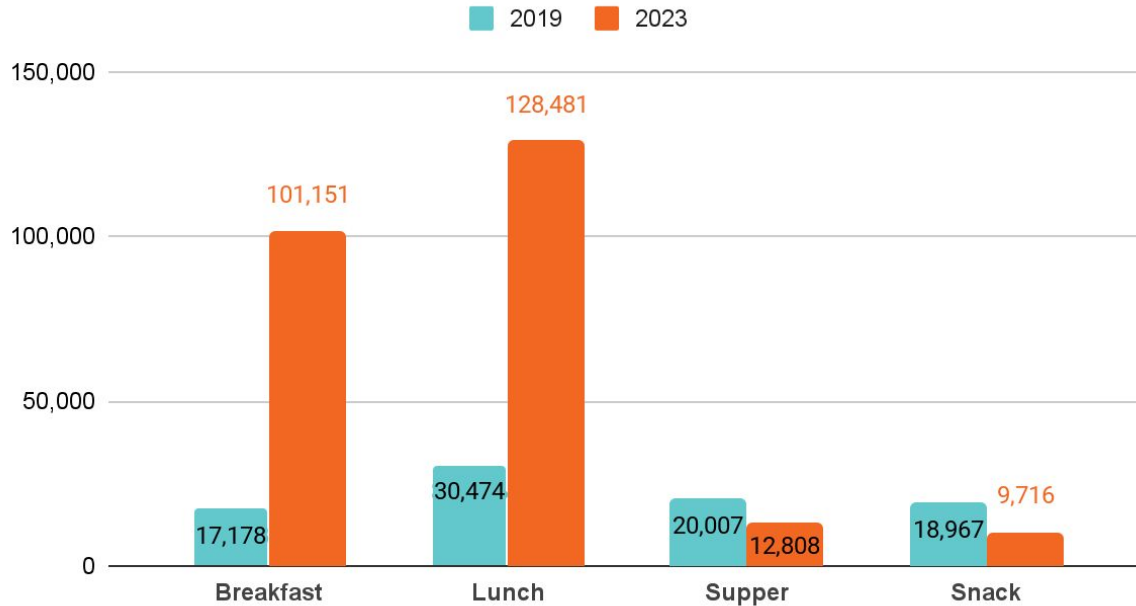
Morgan County Schools, TN Summer Meals Programs

- **District Profile:**
 - 7 Schools
 - 2,879 Students
- **Congregate & Non-Congregate Feeding**
 - 4 Summer School Programs
 - 52 Sites – Gus the Bus
- **Combination of Meal Service**
 - Family Style, Hot, Frozen,
 - Grab & Go + Bulk Meals
- **Serving Period**
 - 7 Days Non-Congregate & Daily Congregate Feeding
 - May 26th- August 1st



Morgan County Summer Meals Growth Over the Years...

Increase in Summer Meals



Total Meals

2019: 86,626 Meals

2023: 229,632 Meals



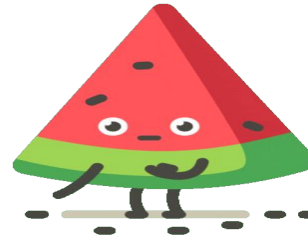
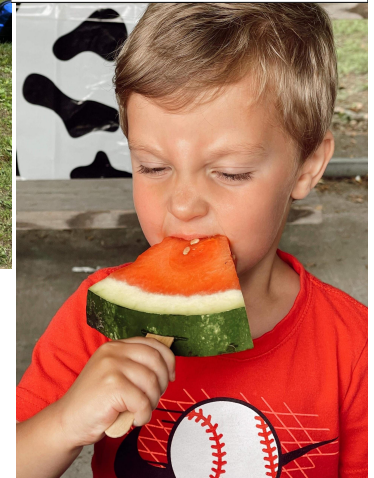
Planning For Summer Meals

January/February Community Meeting

- Program Education/Meal Requirements
- Benefit of Partnership
- Provide Meal Samples
- Calendar of Events
- Sign Up Sheets Available
- Communicate!

Things to Consider

- Menu: Family Style/Grab & Go/Bulk
- Communication - QR Code, Social Media
- Labor: Student Workers, Transportation
- Grants



Summer Kick Off Event

- Location
- Budget
- Time/Date/Duration
- Set-Up & Expectations
- Partner with Local Officials/Media
- Family Engaged Sponsors
- Range of Age Activities
- Meal & Accountability
- Evaluate & Follow Up





Kids Eat Free

JUNE 1st SEAMLESS SUMMER KICK OFF 

WARTBURG SOLOMON CITY PARK

10:00 AM- 12:00 PM




Morgan County Schools
FOOD & NUTRITION



TAT Produce



FUEL UP
at Play 60



THE DAIRY
ALLIANCE



NO KID
HUNGRY



RIDGEVIEW
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES



CASA
Child Abuse and Neglect Specialists
FOR CHILDREN
CASA OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



WECO
FM 101.3
Solid Gospel. AM 101.9/93.5 - WECO
FOR CHILDREN

GUS THE BUS

FREE FOOD

FREE BOOKS


FREE RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

BOUNCE HOUSES


GAMES

GIVEAWAYS


LIVE BROADCAST



MARYFIELD
DAIRY FARMS



Healthy Families
America



MORGAN SCOTT
PROJECT
423.965.2111 | morganscottproject.org



Save the Children.



One Bank
OF TENNESSEE
The Local Choice

Fairview Missionary Baptist Church, Lancing

Thank you to all our Sponsors/Attendees

QR Code for Morgan County Food & Nutrition Summer Feeding Information




For more information: Peggy Hamby 423-215-4525 hamby@mcscd.net

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."



Department of
Health




The Highland
CONNECTION
Keeping you connected.
HIGHLAND HCC



MCMC
Morgan County
Medical Center



Boone State
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



Cobb



DAVIS FUNERAL HOME



PJ BOUNCERS
423.965.2111



TENNESSEE
State Parks



MoCo
BREWING
PRODUCT



Beth Brewster

Supervisor of Food Services, Caroline
County Public Schools & Founder of
Chesapeake Culinary Center, Maryland





Our Mission:

To create **healthy, economically stable families** through

- ✓ **food equity**
- ✓ **job training**
- ✓ **youth prevention**
- ✓ **economic development**
- ✓ **education**



Summer Meals in Caroline County, Maryland

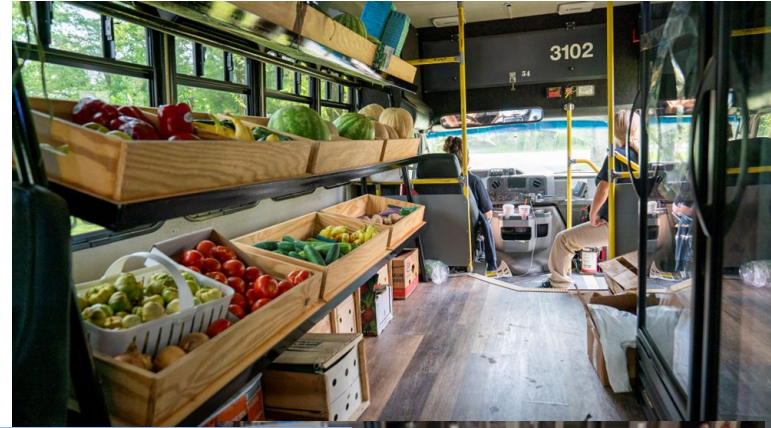
1. **District wide**
 - a. Community Eligibility Provision
 - b. 9 schools
 - c. 5,700 students
 - d. Families in poverty 10%
 - e. Rural- whole county eligible for non congregate
2. **Summer Meal Delivery**
 - a. Open sites/camp all elementaries, library, community centers, churches
 - b. Door to door (applications)
 - c. Mobile
3. **Meals**
 - a. Hot, shelf stable, cold, frozen meals
 - b. Breakfast & Lunch Service
 - c. Number of meals varied 1-3 days
4. **7 weeks of meal service**
5. **36,000 meals served + 11,178 mobile bus**



Summer Meals in Caroline County, Maryland

Vehicle

- MDOT – requested retired bus
- 14 passenger bus (no CDL required), removable shelving unit
- Several funders: NKH, RMC, foundations, private
- \$20k to retrofit the bus: Wrap- \$4k, \$16k to gut the inside, run the electric, HVAC, build shelving, fabricate the walls



Processing meals:

- heat & serve microwave safe
- summer prep in school kitchens
- during school-culinary center
- process local produce in summer
- incorporate in farm2school program and summer meals



Why a Mobile Market?

- Summer Meal Distribution
- Promotion of local farmers
- SNAP (pending)
- Senior Citizen Farm vouchers
- Local economic development
- Connect with your community
- Food equity and security
- Farm scripts/ Employee Wellness Incentives



Community Partnerships

- Choptank Community Health-mobile wellness van
- Salvation Army
- Caroline County Recreation and Parks
- County Health Departments
- Social Services
- Caroline county library
- Community Managers for the apartment complexes
- Local Farmers
- Caroline Foundation
- Food for Learning
- Aaron's Place Food Pantry
- Caroline Helping Hands
- Rural MD Council
- Mid Shore Community Foundation





Q&A





Resources



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 or NoKidHungry.org/Ayuda for our interactive Free Meal Finder map of summer meals sites.

Families can also visit NoKidHungry.org/WhatsApp to access the meal finder via WhatsApp.





Stay in Touch!

Subscribe to our newsletter:

www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/subscribe

Visit our website:

www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org

Need Assistance? Reach out through our [inquiry form](#) for resources and potential grant funding





Your Feedback is Appreciated!

At the conclusion of this webinar, a 5-question survey will open in your browser window.

Please take a moment to complete it.





Thank You for Attending!

Marissa Spady MS, RD

Senior Program Manager,

State Campaigns, No Kid Hungry

mspady@strength.org



USDA Guidance

In December 2022, the [Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023](#) authorized a permanent option for non-congregate summer meals in rural areas without congregate service. As required by law, on December 29, 2023, USDA issued its [Interim Final Rule \(IFR\)](#): Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs. The IFR takes immediate effect and will guide implementation in Summer 2024, but the IFR is still open for [public comment](#) until April 29, 2024 to inform a future final rule.

This [resource](#) summarizes the updates made by the IFR to the regulations for non-congregate meal service, including the new definition of "rural" and new guidance on models like parent/guardian meal pick-up and multi-day meal distribution.

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Just want to get the highlights? See our related resource, [Interim Final Rule on Non-Congregate Summer Meals: Top Takeaways for Operators](#), a 2-pager that summarizes some of the key points of the IFR and focuses on differences from 2023 guidance.