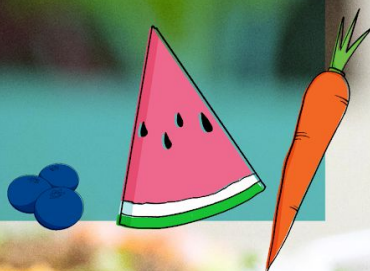


SUMMER NUTRITION SUMMIT

DECEMBER 9-10, 2024



DESIGNING PARTICIPANT-CENTERED NON-CONGREGATE PROGRAMS

Summer Nutrition Summit 2024



Disclaimer

Our speakers represent their own experience with non-congregate summer meal programs in their states and localities. Certain program models and implementation methods may be restricted in some states. Check with your local state agency before implementing any new meal service models or implementation methods.

Agenda

- I. Insights from **summer meal providers** who operated innovative, participant-centered programs
- II. Insights and experiences from a **parent** who participated
- III. **Reflection and discussion** on designing participant-centered programs



Speakers



Amanda West
Child Nutrition Director



Jody Buckle
Director of School
Nutrition



Samie McCullough
Assistant Director

Speakers



Sam Daniels
Director of Community
Impact



Melissa Hill
Nutrition Education and
Programs Manager



Marlena Hanson
Project Assistant and
Indigenous Parent Leader
at All Nations Rise

HOW A SCHOOL DISTRICT CAN OFFER HOME DELIVERY OF MEALS DURING THE SUMMER

Arizona's Humboldt Unified School District lets families choose delivery to their doorstep



1

FIND DELIVERY VEHICLES

Consider partnering with the school transportation team



2

GET THE WORD OUT

Use district email service, radio announcements, and post on social media



3

HELP FAMILIES APPLY

Online map shows applicants eligibility and those who qualify are assigned a number and entered into a master spreadsheet



4

CREATE MENUS AND ROUTES

Use commodities to build menus and plot out ways to deliver efficiently



5

BAG BREAKFASTS AND LUNCHES

Kitchen teams prep bag contents on Friday and store in dairy crates in the fridge for Monday morning distribution



6

LOAD BAGS FOR DISTRIBUTION

Bags loaded into vehicles along with a food and nutrition team member and a driver from the transportation team



7

HOME DELIVERY

Bags delivered to caregivers or dropped in a cooler if they aren't at home

HOW TO OFFER BULK MEALS DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS

The Osage Prairie YMCA Partners with Woods Grocery Store in a Grocery Grab for Kids in the Summer



1

PARTNER

Find community partners like a local grocery store and locations where groceries can be sorted and packed



2

SPREAD THE WORD

Employ social media, church groups, and school listservs to share the time, place, and process for the bulk program



3

CREATE MENUS

Develop menus and procurement orders for groceries equal to 5-7 breakfasts and lunches



4

REGISTER PARTICIPANTS

Give each child a unique QR code to identify them at distributions



5

PACK BAGS

Enlist staff and volunteers to pack groceries on day of distribution



6

GROCERY GRAB!

Cars line up and each child is signed in with QR codes. Then staff and volunteers put the bags directly into the popped trunk of each car

HOW TO BRING BULK MEALS TO KIDS AROUND TOWN

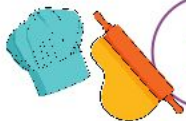
Monticello School Food Service in Arkansas brings a mix of bulk and prepared meals to rural apartment blocks and high-traffic parking lots



1

CREATE MENUS AND GUIDANCE FOR COOKING AND STORAGE

Outline daily menus, storage and cooking instructions for families to submit to state agencies for approval and include in the bags given to families



2

START SUMMER MEAL PREP BEFORE END OF SCHOOL YEAR

Use excess capacity from kitchen teams and commodity products to create and freeze meals for summer



3

GET THE WORD OUT

Use Facebook, district email, and word of mouth to share details of distribution and featured products. Seek approval from managers of apartment complexes to distribute food



4

PREP AND PACK BAGS

Monday through Wednesday, four staff members (7:00 - 11:00, 4 hours a day) cook and bag food



5

LOAD BAGS INTO VEHICLES

Pack bags into school bus and other school vehicles



6

DISTRIBUTE BAGS AND SHARE SUMMER EBT INFORMATION

Pickup at elementary school followed by distribution at two apartment complexes and Walmart parking lot

“With the ground beef, I use it for tacos, spaghetti, hamburger helpers, stuff like that. It’s just all different kinds of stuff that you can do with it. You can say, hey, we’ll have this today. We’ll have this tomorrow.”

— Single parent of 3 boys in Monticello, Arkansas

“With groceries going up as much as they have, this will help us survive the summer. The quality of food is great. It’s food the kids eat. It’s healthy. The kids probably get a different variety [than they are used to] because they change up the fruit and vegetables every week. So you might have grapes one week. Bananas and oranges next.”

— **Mother of 5 who homeschools her children and drives a school bus during the year in Nevada, Missouri**

“Just the people who organized the program are amazing. Anyone I talked to and the food and nutrition staff were real quick to answer any questions. And they are always super nice on the phone and more than willing to go above and beyond for anything.”

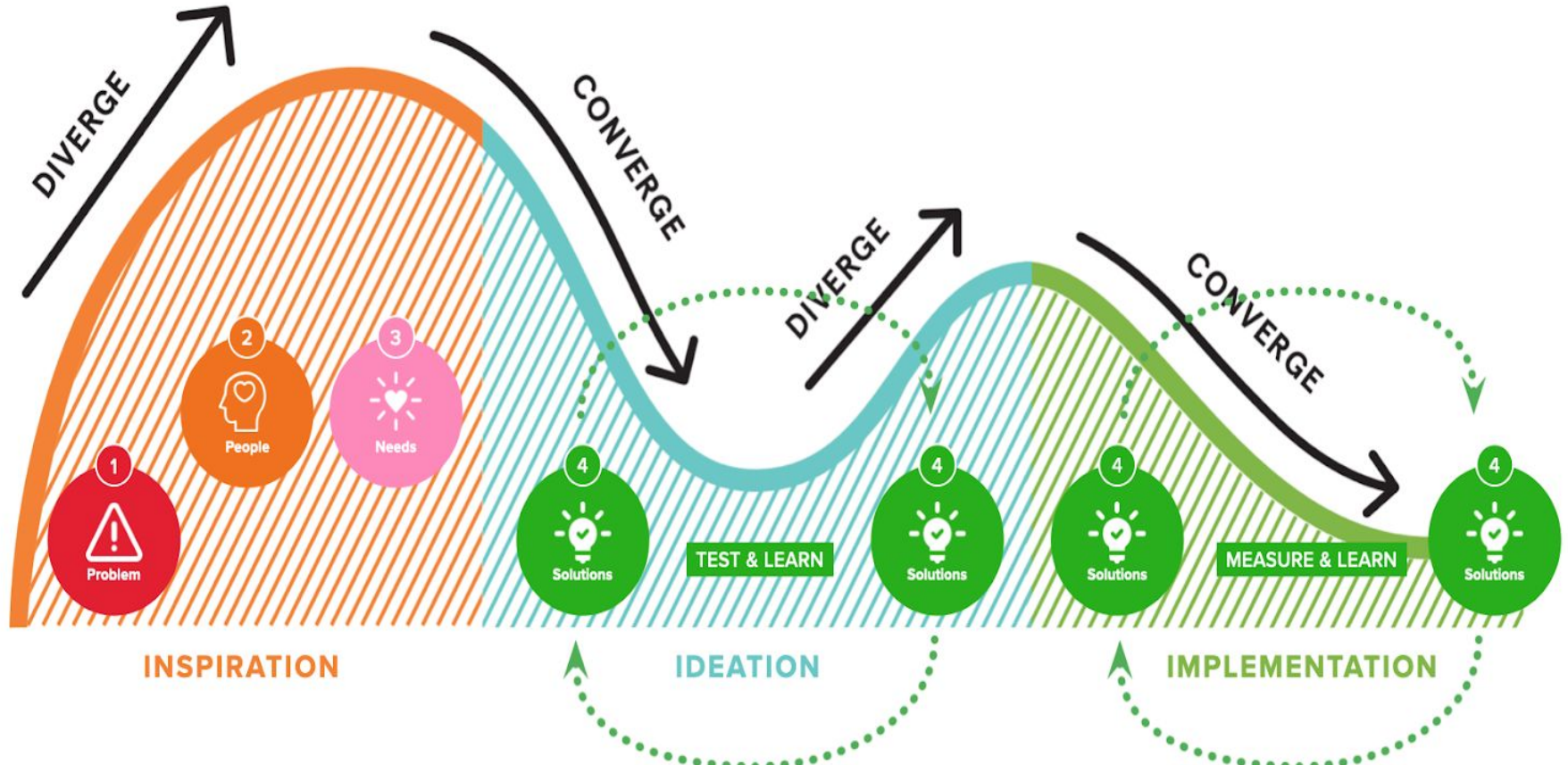
— **Mother who watches 6 children: her own and their cousins in Prescott Valley, Arizona**

Reflections on Models

First, take a few minutes to reflect on what heard on your own. Then I'll ask you to discuss as a table your impressions and questions for 5 minutes. The director and I will join your tables and you can flag us over for more details

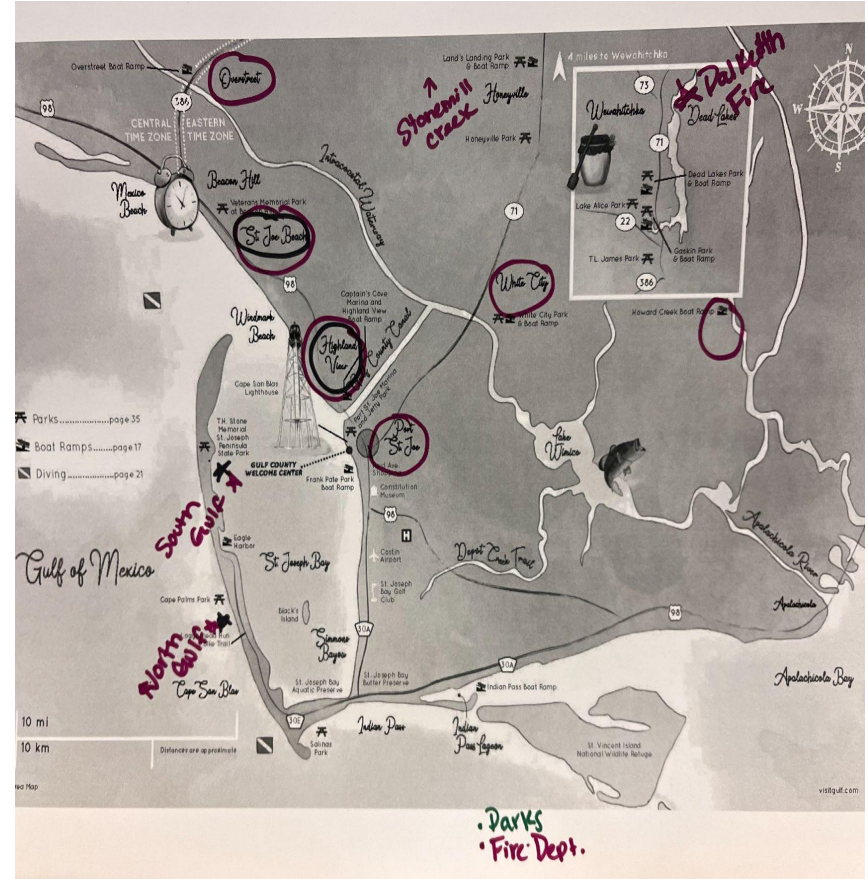
Which model(s) seems most promising for your community?	
How might you adapt this for your community? What obstacles need addressing?	
What questions do you have about operating this model?	

CO-DESIGN with Second Harvest of the Big Bend



- Parks
- Fire departments
- Community centers

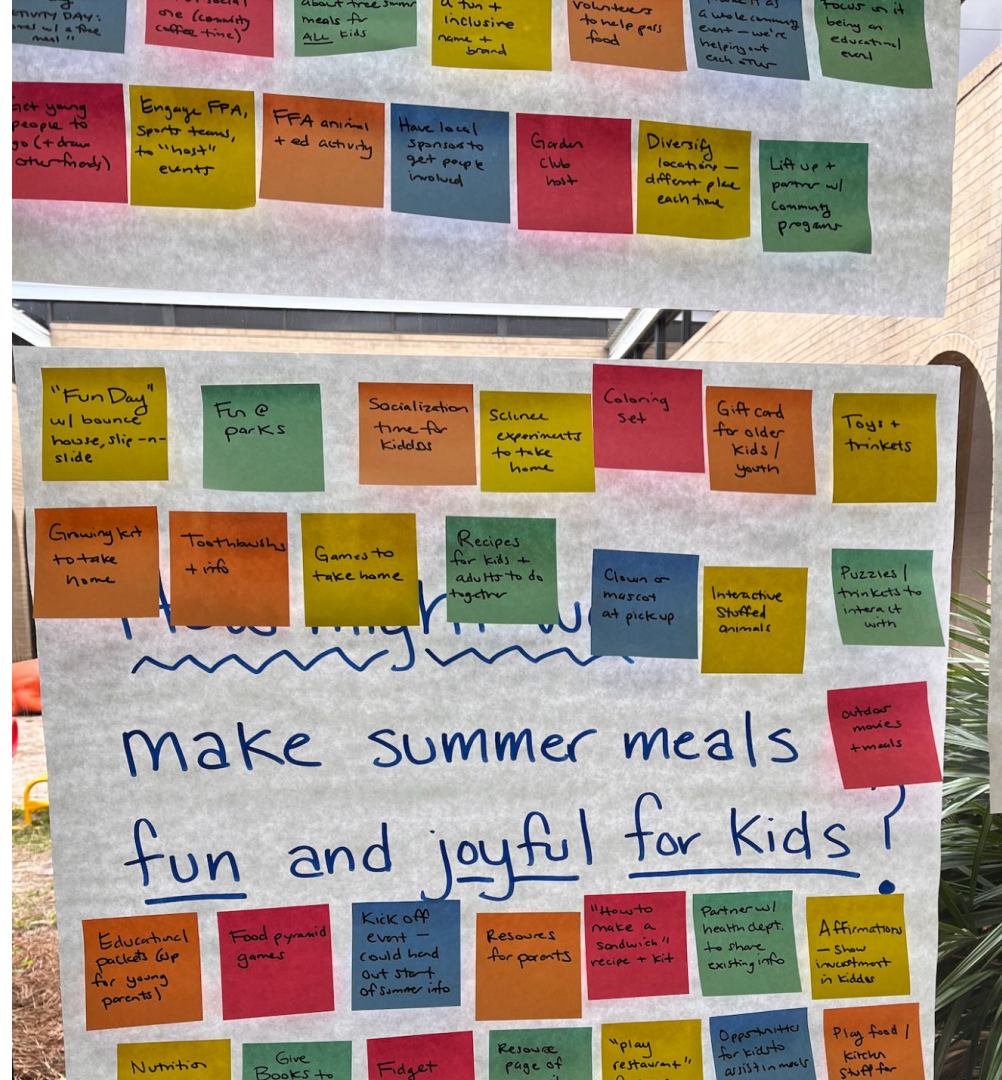
- Parks
- Fire departments
- Community centers



Activities for Kids

"Make it about the experience not about the food."

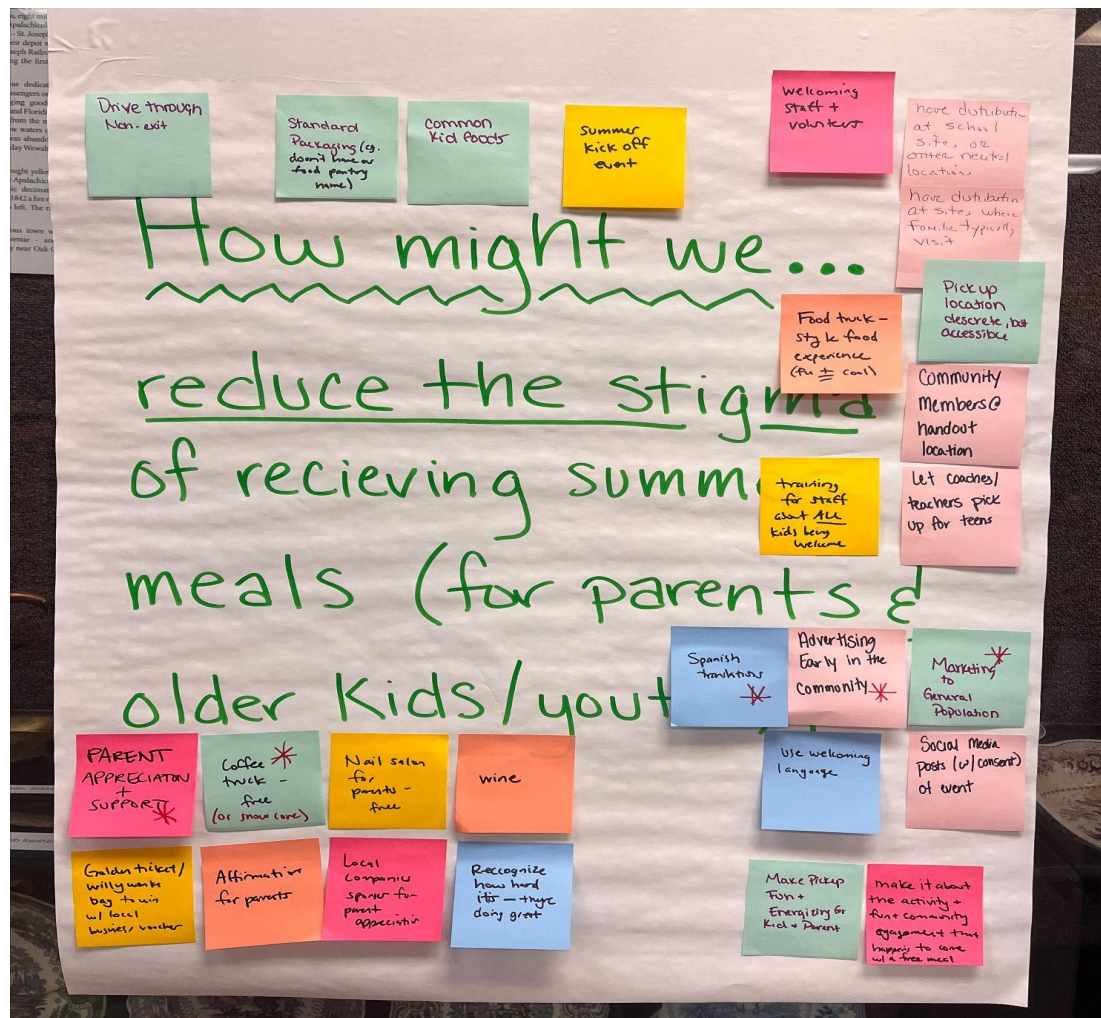
"More recreational things for the kids in Taylor County along with the food. We don't have a lot of things for the young kids to do. So maybe more of a fun station-type thing with food."



Caregiver Appreciation

“Some people get embarrassed about their food insecurity and anything you can do to waver from that will be beneficial.”

- Words of affirmation
- Gift card or coupon
- On-site massage therapist
- Coffee
- Make it a social time for parents



Your Ideas for Kids and Caregivers

Grab a few sticky notes to brainstorm.

You'll have 5 minutes to think of as many ideas for activities for kids and to show caregivers appreciation as you can.

The goal is not that all ideas are feasible right now, but rather it is to generate lots of ideas.

Activities for Kids

Example: Coloring books and colored pencils

Caregiver Appreciation

Example: Notes to caregivers in grab-and-go bags that tell them what a great job they are doing

What's next?

Take a few minutes to reflect on what you heard from Marlena Hanson. Then pivot to planning for 2025 – how might you make your program more participant-centered?

What is a question you would like to ask participants in your community in order to make a design decision or programmatic change for 2025?	
What is an improvement you might like to try? Describe here or use the back of this paper to draw an example.	

