



Welcome!

We'll Get Started Soon.



Non-Congregate 101

The Building Blocks to
Successful and Sustainable
Rural Summer Meals

February 18, 2026



Things to Know Before We Begin

- The slide deck will be shared via email after the webinar along with the recording.
- 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.
- Closed captioning is available.



Agenda

- RNC Regulation Basics
- Guest Speakers
- Summer Meals Calculator
- Q & A
- Resources & Closing



AUDIENCE POLL TIME!





**NON-CONGREGATE
SUMMER MEAL
PROGRAMS**



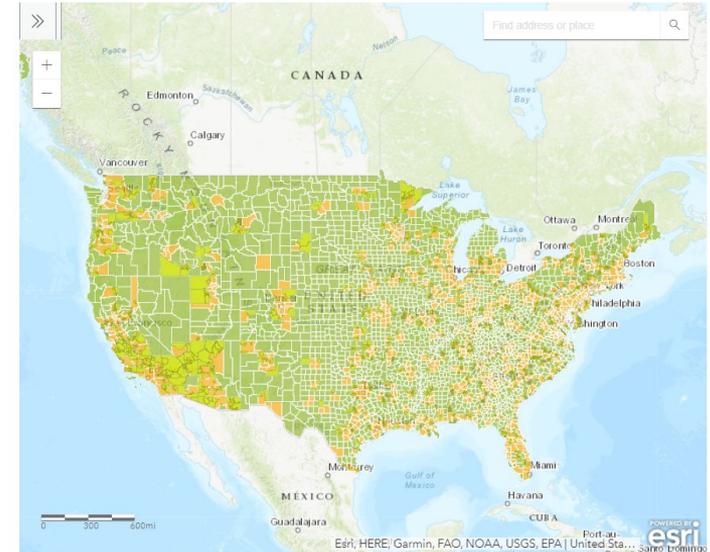
USDA Expanded Definition of “Rural”

The interim final rule issued on December 29, 2023

The definition of "rural" was expanded to include numerous geographies in USDA or U.S. Census data sources.

No Kid Hungry’s Non-Congregate Summer Meals Rural Eligibility Map highlights areas that may qualify for non congregate meal service

The No Kid Hungry Average Eligibility Map has been updated with FY23 data.





Who Can Operate Non Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas?

- Must be area eligible for summer meals program.
- SFSP and SSO sponsors in good standing.
- Sites in USDA Rural Designation area with no congregate service.

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



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

Speakers



Donna Martin
No Kid Hungry
Consultant



Ericka Jackson
Departmental Analyst
MI Dept. of Education



Carrie Bean
Anti-Hunger Initiatives
Director, The Monroe
Family YMCA

Rural Non-Congregate: A Win for Students, Community and Sponsors

Donna S. Martin, EdS, RDN, LD, SNS, FAND
No Kid Hungry Consultant



Why Summer Feeding?

- Hunger does not stop when summer starts
- Students' lifeline to nutrition stops when school ends
- Students need good nutrition in order to learn
- Food Insecurity is on the rise
- Summer EBT is not available to everyone



Who wins when you offer summer feeding?

- Students
- Parents
- Summer Nutrition Employees
- Summer Nutrition Program
- Farmers





Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas

Program Flexibilities Offered:

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

Check with the state agency to see what is allowable!

Non-Congregate Feeding

- Non-congregate feeding offers us a unique opportunity to be able to serve children in rural districts who have trouble with transportation.
- It saves on labor costs because you can do multiple meals for multiple days.
- You can send home breakfast and lunch or a meal and a snack
- You also save because you do not have to serve and clean up after students eat.
- You also do not have to supervise the students while they eat.
- Employees don't have to work a full week.



Lots of meal delivery options



Remember

- Menu Drives Participation
- Once a week delivery/pickup is easier than daily delivery/pickup
- Social Media can drive participation
- Every site can be different
- Summertime is when Farm to Summer is most available
- There are flexibilities like giving half gallons of milk and bulk food



Tips

- Shelf Stable Milk
- Farm to Summer opportunities
- Rent a walk-in cooler or freezer if you need more storage
- Include items in meals that are popular with different populations you serve
- Have an “exciting” item in every box
- Post pictures of meal items on social media
- Have families order in advance
- Remember who your main audience is, and can they prepare the meals
- Put instructions on items that need to be cooked
- Have backup items in case product does not come in



Financial Viability

- Non-Congregate Summer Feeding is a money maker for School Nutrition Programs



Difference in Reimbursement Rates for Summer Feeding vs. School Year Rates

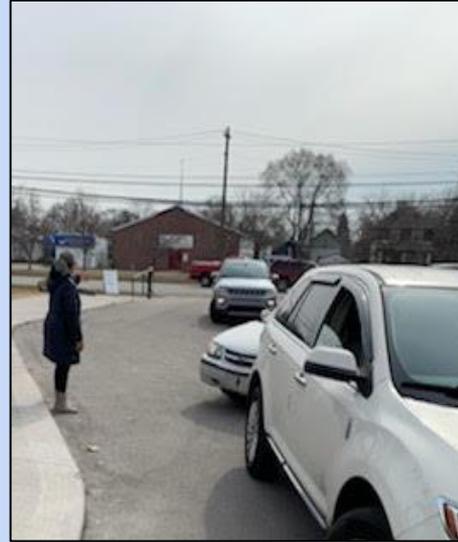
	Reimbursement Rates	Reimbursement Rates	Reimbursement Rates
	NSLP/NSBP/SSO	SFSP	SFSP/SSO Difference
Lunch	\$4.86	\$5.40	\$0.54
Breakfast	\$2.94	\$3.03	\$0.09

Now and Then

**Michigan Department of
Education 2025**



**City of Detroit Recreation
Department 2020**



RNC in Michigan

	2024	2025	% Change
Total SFSP BREAKFAST	3,065,617	3,989,606	30%
Total SFSP LUNCH	3,749,564	4,743,282	27%
Total SFSP SUPPER	133,419	89,273	-33%
Total SFSP SNACK	145,831	116,556	-20%
Total SFSP MEALS	7,096,455	8,938,717	26%
RNC BREAKFAST	1,966,597	2,483,558	26%
RNC LUNCH	1,959,182	2,506,971	28%
RNC SUPPER	46,684	8,383	-82%
RNC SNACK	2,282	656	-71%
RNC TOTAL	3,974,745	4,999,568	26%
RNC % of Total SFSP Meals	56%	56%	0%
Total SFSP Reimbursement	\$29,366,375.20	\$37,964,912.00	29%

Best Practices

- Use colored bags
- Use insulated bags
- Numbers on cars
- Sign-up process
- QR codes/Scan
- Google Docs
- Attestation statements
- Try to limit distribution to 3 hours
- Use child friendly instructions for heating and preparation
- Use as many fresh fruits and vegetables as possible



Did you taste the food?



If you like it,
they'll love it!



Promote your program!!!!

Place information in:

- Grocery stores
- Doctor's offices
- Local businesses
- Schools
- Meal packages
- Social media pages
- Van/car wraps
- Radio ads



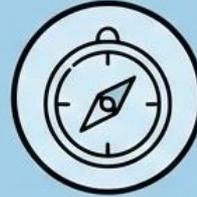
Final Tips and Takeaways



Seek feedback



Reflect on performance



Explore new techniques



Set attainable goals



Adapt to change



Work with partner agencies for assistance



Don't be afraid to reach out to your State Agency



Advertise!!!!

Carrie Bean - Anti-Hunger Initiatives Director

Monroe Family YMCA

CACFP & SFSP Sponsor with 11 years of experience

We sponsor an additional 4 YMCA in the state

In 2025 we had 4 RNC sites serving from beginning to end of summer serving

Our “profit” from RNC is our largest support for feeding kids year round

Biggest goal was a kid friendly menu and packaging



Actionable Tips

- Start Small, Build Strong
 - Try things out, learn what works, grow from there
- Partnerships Multiply Impact
 - Work with local groups and community partners
- Flexibility Fuels Access
 - Create serving site times and days to meet community needs
- Quality & Compliance Go Hand-in-Hand
 - Kid-friendly meals made with high-quality ingredients & trained staff keep programs strong and trusted
- Sustainability Through Systems
 - Good routines and clear records keep funding steady
- Data + Storytelling = Support
 - Sharing numbers and real impact stories inspires others to join and give.



Menu

- Two or three week cycle menu
- Include “favorite” items
- Culturally relevant meals
- Kid friendly cooking directions - microwave & oven
- Easy grab & go packaging
- Holiday themes
- Fresh Fruits & Veggies & Whole foods
- List meal type, components, age, food item, & serving size
- **Colorful and visually appealing**
(No Beige Meals)



the Y MONROE FAMILY YMCA
SUMMER MEAL DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM
FREE HEALTHY MEALS FOR ALL KIDS & TEENS!

DROP-IN DAILY MEALS
USDA regulations require daily meals to be consumed onsite. Ages 5 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

ELLIS LIBRARY
 3700 South State Rd, Monroe, MI 48161
 JUNE 16-JULY 24
 MONDAY-THURSDAY
 LUNCH: 12:15pm-1:00pm

LUNA PIER LIBRARY
 4349 Oak St, Lima Pier, MI 48157
 JUNE 19-AUGUST 22
 MONDAY-FRIDAY
 LUNCH: 12:30pm-1:00pm

MONROE FAMILY YMCA
 1111 West Elm Ave, Monroe, MI 48162
 JUNE 18-AUGUST 22
 MONDAY-FRIDAY
 BREAKFAST: 7:00am-8:00am
 LUNCH: 1:00pm-1:30pm
MEALS SERVED IN CHILDWATCH

SALVATION ARMY COMMUNITY CENTER
 815 E. 13th Street, Monroe, MI 48161
 JUNE 16-AUGUST 29
 MONDAY-FRIDAY
 BREAKFAST: 9:00am-10:00am
 LUNCH: 12:00pm-1:00pm

ALL MEAL DISTRIBUTION SITES WILL BE CLOSED JULY 4

GRAB & GO MEAL BUNDLES
USDA regulations limit distribution to one bundle per meal child per household.

ERIC RESTAURANT
 9792 South State Hwy, Eric, MI 48133
 JUNE 10-AUGUST 28
 TUESDAY 12:00pm-1:00pm
 MEAL BUNDLES INCLUDE
 7 BREAKFASTS & 7 SUPPERS
Drive up to grab & go.

FRENCHTOWN-DIXIE LIBRARY
 2101 North Dixie Highway, MI 48162
 JUNE 16-AUGUST 25
 MONDAY 9:00pm-3:30pm
 MEAL BUNDLES INCLUDE
 7 BREAKFASTS & 7 SUPPERS
Drive up to grab & go.

LUNA PIER LIBRARY
 4349 Oak St, Lima Pier, MI 48157
 JUNE 13-AUGUST 22
 FRIDAY 12:30pm-1:00pm
 MEAL BUNDLES INCLUDE
 7 BREAKFASTS & 2 LUNCHES
INDIE PICKUP
Drive up/outside service unavailable.

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
 1555 South Bannockville Rd, Monroe, MI 48161
 JUNE 19-AUGUST 28
 THURSDAY 3:00pm-3:30pm
 MEAL BUNDLES INCLUDE
 7 BREAKFASTS & 7 SUPPERS
INSIDE PARKING AT THE SOUTH ENTRANCE OF WARREN & STUDENT CENTER
FOLLOW "MEALS UP & GO" SIGNAGE
Drive up/outside service unavailable.

NO ENROLLMENT NECESSARY!
ALL youth up to age 18 are encouraged to participate. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
 CARRIE POWELL
 (734) 241-2606 ext. 242
 cpowell@monroefamilyymca.org

ANTI-HUNGER INITIATIVES MAJOR SPONSOR
L A Z B O Y
Live life comfortably.

PROGRAM SUPPORTERS
NO KID HUNGRY
HAP CareSource



Outreach and Storytelling

- **Social Media** - Weekly Facebook post with pictures of bundles and highlighting 2-3 main entrees
- **Website** - listing all of our meal locations with days, times, and meal type
- **Flyers** - Post flyers at partner sites (even if they are not a meal site)
- **Participant Spotlight** - with permission, interview a participant and post on social media (posts do not have to include names or pictures.)
- **Word of mouth is the best!**

Motivation

“WOW!!!!!! I am so incredibly impressed by the food – the options, the packaging, the DIRECTIONS included...what a blessing!! This seriously saved us SO much money!!!! These meals don’t feel like “low income” meals!!!”

- 2024- 2025 participant



Summer Meals Calculator



<https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/resource/summer-meals-calculator>

No Kid Hungry's Summer Meals Calculator is designed to help sponsors estimate the revenue and expenses for their summer meals programs. Its interactive format lets you try out different scenarios, such as changing anticipated meal counts or staffing levels, to see how those choices shape your financial outlook. The tool provides helpful estimates, but please use it as guidance rather than a final program budget.

Scan QR code with your phone or tablet to access calculator





Q&A





Resources & More!

Visit our Center for Best Practices:

www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org

Register for upcoming webinars:

www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/webinars

Summer Resources:

- [No Kid Hungry Summer Meals Calculator](#)
- [No Kid Hungry Summer Meals Eligibility Map](#)
- [Successful Non-Congregate Meal Service Models for Rural Areas: Implementation Guide-](#)
- [Interim Final Rule on Non-Congregate Summer Meal Operations: Top Operators](#)



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR
SUMMER MEALS NEWSLETTER!



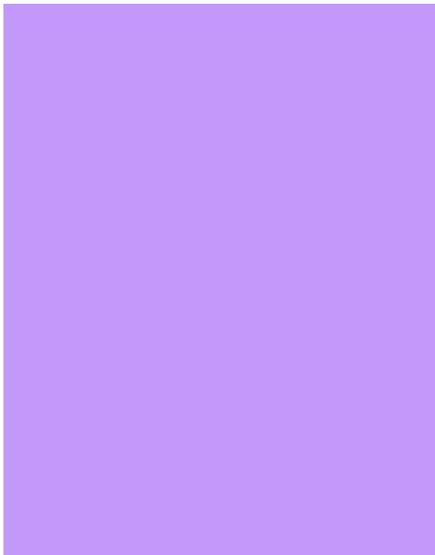


Register for our next WEBINAR!

Reaching the Last Mile: Strategies for Serving Ultra-Rural Populations

Wednesday March 4th
12 pm PST | 3 pm EST

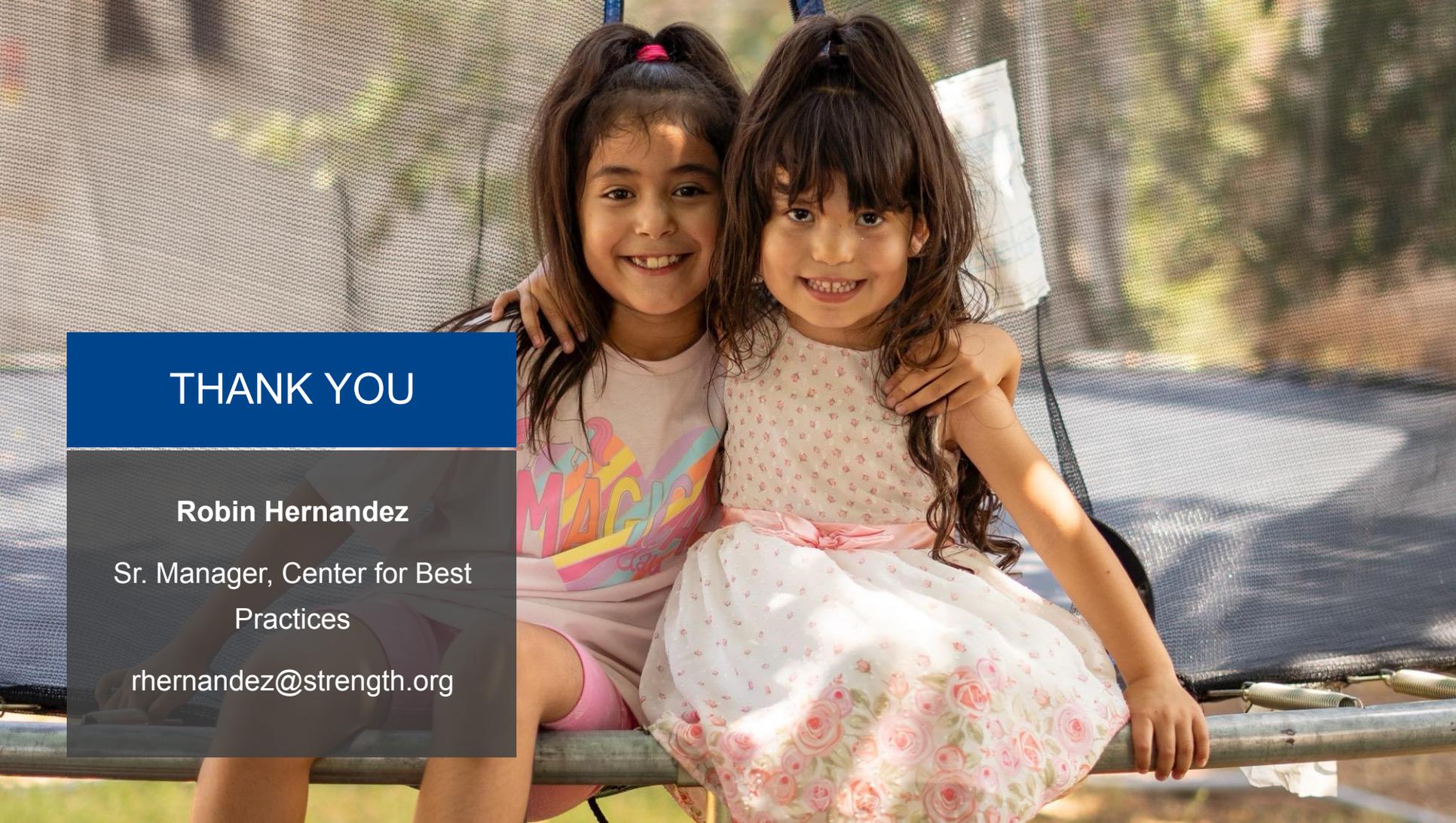




Your Feedback is Appreciated!

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

Robin Hernandez

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Practices

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