



Afterschool Meals in Libraries

Offering Year-Round Nutrition

May 18, 2022





HOUSEKEEPING





Today's Agenda

CACFP At-Risk Overview

Afterschool Meals in Libraries – Making it Work!

- **Jasmin LoBasso** –
Kern County Library (CA)
- **Sarah Wright** –
Columbus Metropolitan Library (OH)
- **Shannon Amos** –
Children's Hungry Alliance (OH)

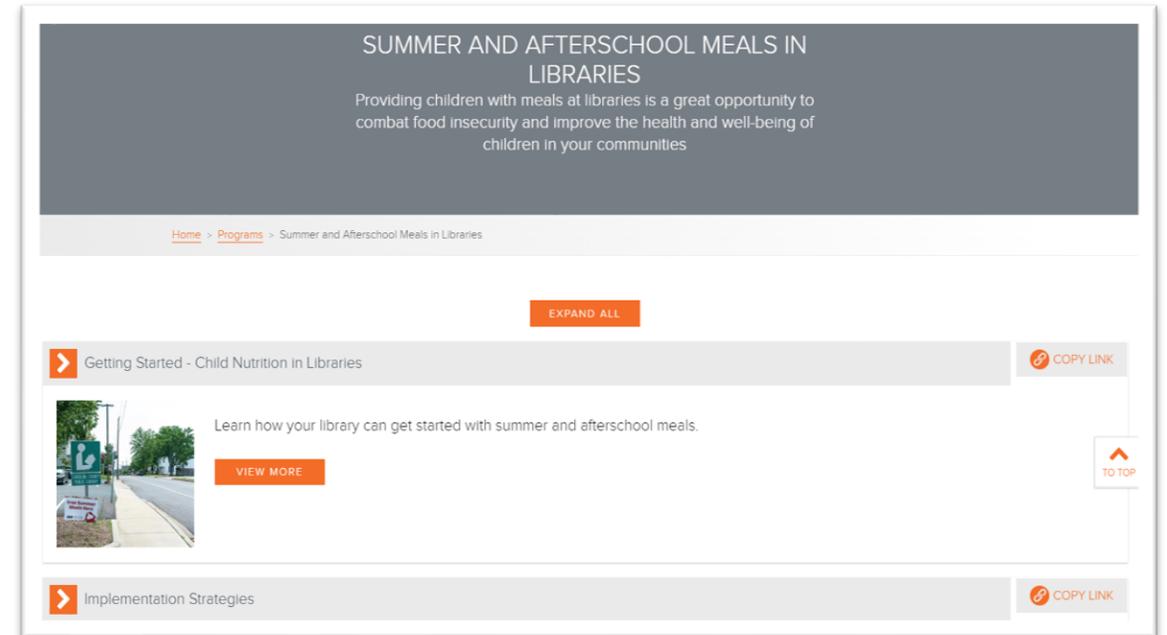
Audience Q&A

Resources from No Kid Hungry

No Kid Hungry's New Library Page!

Summer and Afterschool Meals in Libraries – *new webpage!*

Share widely!



The Afterschool Meals Program

- A component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP At-risk Afterschool Meals)
 - Federal child nutrition program
 - Administered by state agencies (differs by state)
- Supports school & community-based afterschool programs
- Available in areas where at least half of students are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals (area eligibility – [map resource](#))
- An enrichment activity must be offered
- Open to all kids ages 18 and under regardless if they participate in the enrichment activity

How the Afterschool Meals Program Helps

- Offers a healthy meal with 3-5 items
- Helps improve end-of-day behavior, focus, and performance
- Provides needed energy for afterschool activities and learning
- Supports children and families facing food insecurity



Sponsors vs. Sites

Sponsors

- Sponsors are organizations that are approved by the state agency to operate the program.
- In most cases, sponsors procure or prepare meals that are delivered to sites to be served to participating children.
- Sponsors are reimbursed for meals served by federal funds
- Sponsors are responsible for the bulk of the administrative tasks and paperwork.

Sites

- Sites are the locations where meals are served.
- In most cases, sites receive meals from sponsors and are responsible for serving meals to participating children.
- Sites are also responsible for maintaining some paperwork like meal counts and attendance rosters

Finding a Sponsor

- Check out the National CACFP Association [database](#)
- Contact your [state agency](#)
- Ask around! You might be able to reach out to your local food bank, school, YMCA, or Boys and Girls Club





How No Kid Hungry Can Help

- Provide resources and educational materials
- Assist with navigating the program
- Highlight effective service models
- Share promising practices and grant opportunities
- Connect you with mentors and stakeholders in your state

bestpractices.nokidhungry.org





Jasmin LoBasso
Kern County Library,
California



The Kern County Library

Jasmin LoBasso, MBA, MLIS



About Kern

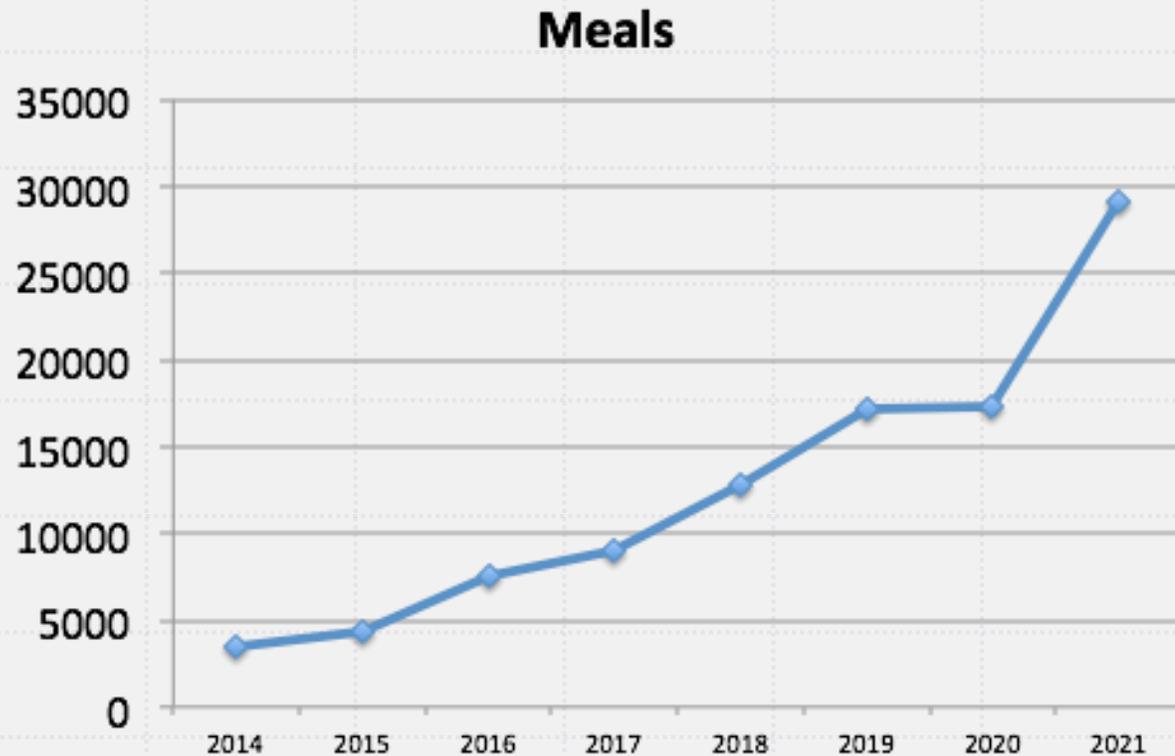
- County library system
- General Fund department
- 22 branches
- 8,000+ square miles
- 900,000+ population
- Blend of urban, suburban, and rural communities
- Lunch at the Library since 2014
- Began serving beyond June & July in 2020
- **With a grant from No Kid Hungry, we launched our after-school program in 2021 in rural agricultural areas of Kern**
- **Arvin, Delano, Wasco, Beale**



Meal Services

Served:

- 17,000+ meals in 2020; 29% beyond Summer
- 29,000+ meals in 2021; 42% beyond Summer
- 6,700+ meals so far in 2022 during afterschool



The Vision

Why the Library?

- Closes gaps in meal services
- Trusted community spaces
- Highly valued
- Wide range of resources
- Literacy & learning component
- Libraries are popular meal sites
- Lunch helps increase program participation
- Connects new families to the Library, especially in underserved communities
- Generates new partnerships

Our similar goals align!



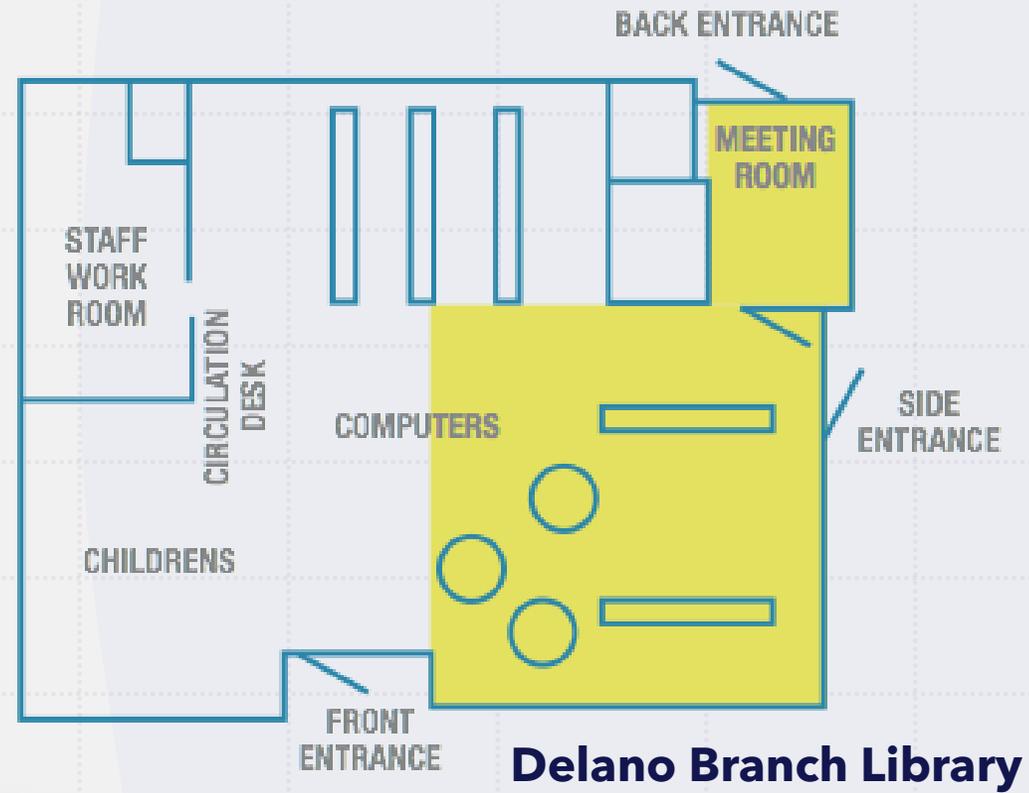


Reaching Children & Teens

- Leverage teen volunteers; they're your advocates!
- Incentivize your families with book giveaways - it builds their at-home libraries and brings them into the program!
- Offer enrichment; an easy one is a "homework space"
- Utilize online marketing, including social media ads
- Utilize traditional marketing, including direct mail
- Outreach includes talking to everyone!

Considerations

- Identify your lunch space, serving area, and a greeting area
- Think about equipment (food warmers, milk boxes, fridges, etc.)
- Work with your food vendor/provider to ensure a parent/caregiver option is available
- Plan your responses for tricky situations
- Create a tracking sheet for your staff



Delano Branch Library

The image shows a "LUNCH LIBRARY" tracking sheet for the Delano Branch Library. The form includes the following sections:

- PARTNER:** Kern High, Tart Union, KCSOS, Delano School, Sierra Sands Unified, Southern Kern Unified, Avizo Union.
- MEALS SERVED (i.e. breakfast & lunch, 2 lunches, etc.):** El Portal Unified, McFarland Unified, Tehachapi Unified.
- STARTING MEAL COUNT:** _____
- TOTAL ATTENDANCE (circle families/cars):** A grid of 200 numbered boxes for tallying attendance.
- END OF DAY STATS:** Fields for Leftover Meal Count, Child Lunch Count, Adult Lunch Count, Total Attendance, Final Count of Cars/Families, Unfulfilled Meal Count, # of Lunch Volunteers, and # of Volunteer Hours.
- Key to this Form:** A legend explaining the symbols used in the attendance grid.
- Notes (or use this section to keep a tally mark count):** A section for additional information.

Connect Families



- Create resource packets
- Nutritional activities
- Play food and kitchens
- Make collection connections
- Get creative with programming

Strategies Before & After Meal Service

• Meale Space:

- Have an Image Release Policy posted
- Post a "Lunch Rules" sign so you don't have to be the "food police"
- Have a "put back" table & offer water
- Just place surveys on table where visitors eat

• Before Service:

- Ensure appropriate number of items arrive
- Keep inventory of everything
- Hot meals = melted plastic

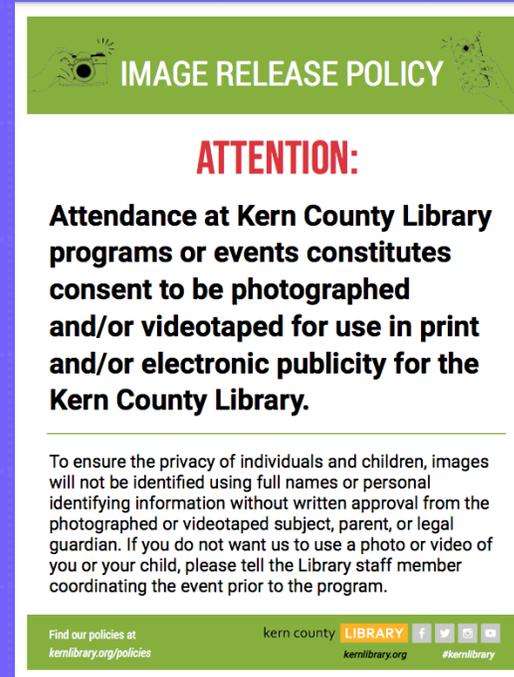


IMAGE RELEASE POLICY

ATTENTION:

Attendance at Kern County Library programs or events constitutes consent to be photographed and/or videotaped for use in print and/or electronic publicity for the Kern County Library.

To ensure the privacy of individuals and children, images will not be identified using full names or personal identifying information without written approval from the photographed or videotaped subject, parent, or legal guardian. If you do not want us to use a photo or video of you or your child, please tell the Library staff member coordinating the event prior to the program.

Find our policies at kernlibrary.org/policies

kern county LIBRARY [f](https://www.facebook.com/kernlibrary) [i](https://www.instagram.com/kernlibrary) [y](https://www.youtube.com/kernlibrary)
kernlibrary.org [#kernlibrary](https://twitter.com/kernlibrary)

• Clean Up:

- Simple Green is non-toxic, and school approved
- Leverage butcher paper and placemats
- Place chairs on tables during cleaning



EAT, LAUGH, & LEARN
LUNCH AT THE LIBRARY

kern county LIBRARY [f](https://www.facebook.com/kernlibrary) [i](https://www.instagram.com/kernlibrary) [y](https://www.youtube.com/kernlibrary)
kernlibrary.org [#kernlibrary](https://twitter.com/kernlibrary)

Welcome!
¡Bienvenido!

- MEALS CANNOT BE TAKEN OUT OF EATING AREA
LAS COMIDAS NO SE PUEDE SACAR DE LA HABITACIÓN
- MEALS ARE ONLY FOR THE SPECIFIED AGES
LAS COMIDAS SON SOLO PARA LAS EDADES ESPECIFICADAS
- ADULTS CANNOT EAT THEIR CHILDREN'S MEALS
LOS ADULTOS NO PUEDEN COMER LAS COMIDAS DE SUS HIJOS

Please see staff for any questions or concerns.
Consulte al personal para cualquier duda o inquietud.

Thank you! ¡Gracias!

CALIFORNIA SUMMER MEAL COALITION CALIFORNIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

The Lunch at the Library program is a statewide collaboration between the California Library Association, the California Summer Meal Coalition, and the Institute for Local Government. The Kern County Library has partnered with the Arvin Union School District, Delano Union School District, Elgin Unified School District, Kern County High School District, Kern County Superintendent of Schools, McFarland Unified School District, Sierra Nevada Unified School District, Southern Kern Unified School District, and the Tehachaples Unified School District.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. The Summer Food Service Program is a program of the United States Department of Agriculture. Lunch at the Library is supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

Strategies During Meal Service

- Take ownership of the program and be the point person
- Engage yourself in the space, be approachable, and introduce yourself
- Speak with children and participate in programs if you can
- Conduct announcements before, during, and after





Expect the Unexpected & Go For It!

- Thank you!
- Jasmin LoBasso, MBA, MLIS
jasmin.lobasso@kernlibrary.org



Sarah Wright

Columbus Metropolitan Library,
Ohio





COLUMBUS
METROPOLITAN
LIBRARY



Afterschool Snack!

Sarah Wright

Young Minds Program Leader

May 18th, 2022

Who are we?



Young Minds



Holistic view of kids



Afterschool Snack



Challenges

- Privacy versus documentation
- Storage or daily delivery
- Space
- Staff time

Successes

- “Feels like my birthday!”
- Changes in behavior
- Kids and teens feel welcome
- No kids go hungry

School Year 22-23



Thank you!





Shannon Amos

Children's Hunger Alliance,
Ohio





Afterschool Meals in Libraries

SHANNON AMOS

VICE PRESIDENT, AGENCY PROGRAMS

Agency Overview

Ensure children receive access to healthy food in caregiving settings through USDA Child Nutrition programs:

Early Care and Out-of-School Time Settings:

- In-Home Child Care
- Childcare Centers
- Afterschool Programs
- Summer Programs

School Meals:

- Assist schools to increase participation

Nutrition Education & Physical Activity Programs



CHA Afterschool Sponsorship

Statewide Sponsor of CACFP Afterschool Meals in Ohio

Sponsored over 300 unique programs in SY21-22

- 32 (of 88) counties served
- All unaffiliated site locations: libraries, recreation centers, youth-serving & faith-based organizations, ESL programs

Combination of vended hot/cold meals and ready-to-serve shelf-stable meals offered to site locations

FY21: 911,000+ meals served



Getting Started with Libraries

Popularity of SFSP– transferability to year-round food access opportunities

Having a library champion– “Team Vittles”

Library branches as community centers



Unique Opportunities & Challenges

Opportunities

- Libraries are in every community!
- Libraries are service-minded and are often looking for more ways to connect their patrons to community services

Challenges

- Overcoming “food in the library” mentality
- Recordkeeping
- Large vs. Small Library Systems
- SFSP > AS and AS > SFSP transition each year



Tips for Sponsoring Libraries

Word-of-mouth promotion

Understand unique set-up of each system/branch & help to overcome barriers up-front, if possible:

- Staffing
- Recordkeeping
- Food type
- Group trainings



Library Growth Potential

First library sponsorship was in School Year 2016-17

- Columbus Metropolitan Libraries

Current School Year 2021-2022:

- Mix of urban and rural library systems
- 18 library systems
- 72 library branches served
- Over 180,000 meals served (Sept-March)





Q&A

Afterschool in Libraries Resource

Fueling Young Readers Year-Round: A Case Study



FUELING YOUNG READERS YEAR-ROUND

When Erin Collins started working at the Whitney Library in 2011, she noticed something surprising. Rather than briefly dropping by the library to browse and check out books, many kids stayed all day during the summer. Some showed up by themselves in the morning and left by themselves at closing time, well into the evening. The pattern continued during the school year, with some kids arriving directly from school and leaving when the library closed. The library was their safe space while their parents worked, she realized. Even more surprising was the fact that these children never left for lunch or snacks. Occasionally a child would ask the staff for food, leading Collins to assume that many more were silently hungry. Collins was aware that some children and families must struggle with hunger in this transient community – there are several nearby motels advertising weekly and monthly rates – but she felt powerless to help.



Then an opportunity presented itself. Three Square Food Bank, one of the largest non-profit sponsors of afterschool and summer meals in the Las Vegas area, agreed to provide meals over the summer. Once the library's board approved of having food in the library, kids could get lunch and an afternoon snack at no charge without having to leave the safety of the library (or its air conditioning). A few years later, after Collins became the Youth Services Department Head, the opportunity extended to afterschool meals during the school year.

Since the 2016-2017 school year, the Whitney Library has served afterschool meals Monday to Thursday. Because the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) requires sites to offer structured afterschool enrichment activities in order to serve meals through its At-Risk Afterschool Meals component, the Whitney Library offers tutoring at that time. The Las Vegas-Clark County Library District's foundation pays for tutors through a non-profit that employs teachers as well as a program that employs college students.



Most kids walk from a nearby elementary and middle school, plus a local high school has a bus stop to drop off students right in front of the library. Collins worked to create a teen zone separate from both the children's section and the rest of the library. While many kids come on their own, there are parents present. On an afternoon in early September, a man walked in with his son to ask if it was true that the library offers free tutoring. He looked relieved to hear a yes. Then a mother arrived with three children. When the youngest was asked about her favorite part of coming to the library, she excitedly replied, "The snacks! The snacks! And the books."

The Whitney Library works with Three Square to provide fresh lunches during the summer. Three Square brings in a refrigeration unit and provides staff to help serve the meals. During the school year, though, the library's own staff serve shelf-stable meals that Three Square delivers earlier in the day. Although the bagged meals meet the requirements to be reimbursed as "suppers" through the CACFP, the library

Additional Afterschool Resources

[Starting Afterschool Meals FAQs](#)

[Getting Started with Afterschool Meals](#) (webinar)

[365 Days of Service with Child Nutrition Programs](#)

[Meeting Student Needs in SY21-22](#)

[Understanding Afterschool Snacks and Meals](#)

[Afterschool Meals Umbrella Model Handout](#)

[Supper in the Classroom Handout](#)

Resources from No Kid Hungry

Summer Meals Outreach Toolkit – *new number!*

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

All in English and Spanish!



Resources cont.

Communicating with Parents and Families About Changes to Summer Meals 2022 Operations

All in English and Spanish!

Available at: bestpractices.nokidhungry.org

Click “Latest Resources” on the orange navigation bar!



Communicating With Parents and Families About Changes to Summer Meals 2022 Operations

This toolkit was created to help you communicate to families about changes to your summer meals program. It includes two sections of customizable content - one for [providers changing \(but still operating\)](#) a summer meals program and one for [providers ceasing summer meals operations](#).

For the most up-to-date information and resources on summer 2022 operations, please visit the [No Kid Hungry Center for Best Practices website](#).

This document features sample language, in both English & [Spanish](#), that you can use as-is or customize to best fit the needs of your school or organization.
Just copy & paste!

[For Programs Changing Operations](#)

****** *Tip: If possible, communicate anticipated program changes to families ahead of summer's start. If [mid-summer](#) changes are anticipated, be sure to communicate with families again about program changes. In either case, include updates across multiple communication channels.*

Check your website to ensure that information about your summer meals program is up-to-date and easy for families to find.

- *Ideally, this information should be located on the homepage.*
- *Make sure the information includes details about the times and locations of meals being served; any activities provided; and menus of planned meals.*
- *Be sure to include contact information so that families can reach out with any questions.*

To Include on Posters and Flyers

The summer meals program is a federal program. Due to changes at the federal level, our program will be changing for summer 2022. We are no longer able to offer [\[TYPE OF MEAL - GRAB&GO/DELIVERY/PARENT PICK-UP/MULTI-DAY MEALS\]](#) but will be offering [\[MEAL TYPES\]](#) to kids and teens 18 and under. We are dedicated to still serving children and the community, and we plan to serve

New Resource!

Feeding a Crowd – Tips for Congregate Meal Service

Available at: bestpractices.nokidhungry.org

Click “Latest Resources” on the orange navigation bar!



FEEDING A CROWD – TIPS FOR CONGREGATE MEAL SERVICE

Requiring children to eat meals onsite can be a challenge in the summer meals program, but it doesn't have to be! This resource provides strategies to make congregate meal service easier for site staff and improve the experience for children and families.

Location, Location, Location

Select a desirable location for your site. Consider where kids, teens, and families gather naturally during the summer months. Some ideas:

- Parks and pools
- Recreation centers and playgrounds
- Splash parks
- Libraries

You can also consider places where parents or caregivers might already be going with their children. Be sure to work with managers or owners wherever you consider. If they do not allow an open meal site, consider an adjacent parking lot. Some ideas:

- Pediatrician offices and WIC clinics
- Laundromats
- Popular shopping and grocery stores

Tip! Have incentives for families that regularly attend. Punch cards with a prize are a great way to maintain participation.

Don't Forget to Decorate!

Make the space welcoming and comfortable for all.

If outside, set up a tent if there is no shade, offer picnic tables or blankets, and provide cold water to all. If inside, let your creativity run wild. Streamers, posters, and balloons add fun to your site. Bean bag chairs? Why not?!

Tip! Now that your site is camera ready, why not create a photo booth? Encourage families to share photos and include your site information – a fun activity and a promotional opportunity in one!

New Resource!

SFSP & SSO Requirements - Comparison Chart of Usual vs. COVID-19 Waiver Operations

Available at: bestpractices.nokidhungry.org

Click “Latest Resources” on the orange navigation bar!

Comparison of Usual Summer Meal Program Provisions vs. Expired Flexibilities Permitted in Response the COVID-19 Pandemic



USDA issued a suite of nationwide waivers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. **These waivers will not be available for summer 2022 SFSP/SSO operations.** Please follow the link to see the waiver language or review our [nationwide waiver summary chart](#) for the nationwide waivers referenced below. Contact your state agency for more information. This resource was last updated 3/29/2022.

Program	Provision	Usual Program Provisions	Expired COVID-19 Flexibilities
USDA	Waiver Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cannot issue nationwide waivers• Cannot approve waiver requests that increase federal costs• Cannot approve waiver requests related to the meal pattern / nutritional quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allowed to issue nationwide waivers• Allowed to issue or approve waivers that increase federal costs• Allowed to issue waivers from the meal pattern requirements if related to supply chain issues caused by COVID-19
	Congregate (Group) Meal Service	Congregate meal service required (children must be served & eat each meal on site in a supervised setting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-congregate meal service allowed (waiver COVID-19 #75)• Parent meal pick-up on child's behalf was allowed with verification of eligible child (waiver COVID-19 #76)
	Meals Reimbursed	Per child per day, up to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakfast + lunch/supper OR• Any one meal + snack *Different for camps and migrant sites	SAME, except <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sites permitted to serve meals for multiple days at the same time (within usual per child per day limits)
SFSP / SSO	Days of Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allows for weekend service and service up to seven days per week• Allows for service on holidays during summer break or intersession breaks for students attending year-round schools• Service during planned school closures or non-school days during the regular school year (like spring break) is not permitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Spring 2020 when operators were utilizing SFSP/SSO under the unanticipated school closure provision, service during planned school closures and non-school days was permitted• In School Year 2020-2021, serving meals through SFSP/SSO was permitted on any day regardless of school operating status• In School Year 2021-2022, schools were permitted to serve meals through SSO on school days and during unanticipated closures. Use of SFSP was limited to unanticipated school closures

In Case You Missed It!

Summer Meals 101: Back to Basics & USDA Update

Webinar Recording & Slides

Available at: bestpractices.nokidhungry.org

*Click “Latest Resources” on the
orange navigation bar!*





Stay in Touch!

Sign up for our newsletter:

www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/subscribe

Visit the CBP website:

www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org



THANK YOU

Paige Pokorney, MPH
Program Manager,
Center for Best Practices
ppokorney@strength.org