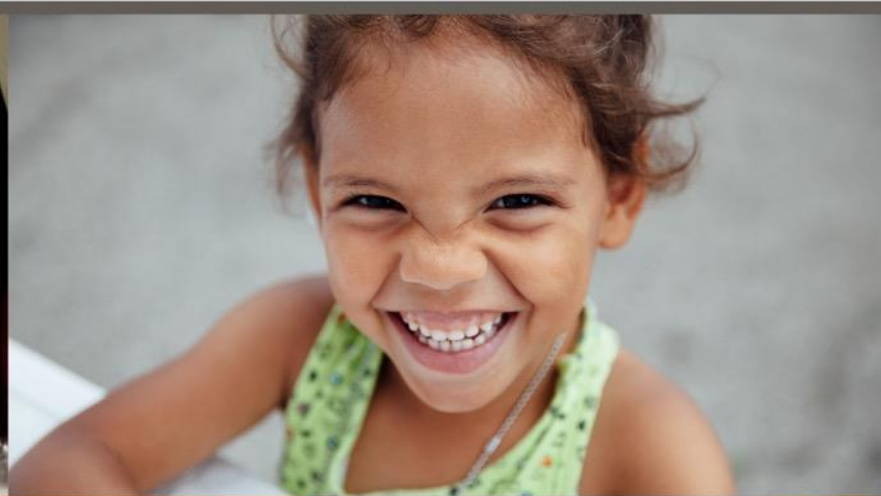




School's Out, Food's In!

Planning for Summer: Operating Without Waivers

March 30, 2022



HOUSEKEEPING





Today's Agenda

Welcome and introductions

- **Carolyn Vega**, Associate Director, Policy Analysis, Center for Best Practices
- **Donna Martin**, Director of School Nutrition at Burke County Public School District (GA)
- **Melissa Weissler**, Senior Manager of Child and Community Nutrition at Operation Food Search (MO)

Summer Meals – Regulatory Update

Planning for Summer – Operation Strategies

Audience Q&A

Additional Resources



No Kid Hungry is a campaign of Share Our Strength. We are committed to ending childhood hunger in the United States by helping launch and improve programs that give kids the food they need to thrive.





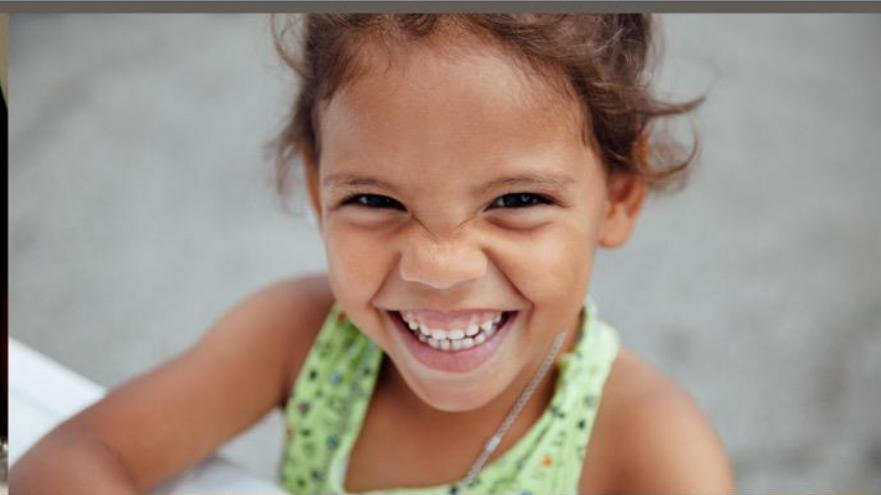
center for BEST
PRACTICES

No Kid Hungry's Center for Best Practices provides information, tools, and resources designed to end childhood hunger.

bestpractices.nokidhungry.org



THANK YOU!



Carolyn Vega

Associate Director, Policy Analysis,
Center for Best Practices
Share Our Strength





USDA Nationwide Waivers

- Support safe access to meals in & out of school
- Help address supply chain disruptions
- Streamline operations



USDA Nationwide Waivers

- Available with authority given to USDA by Congress
 - First given March 2020
 - Renewed several times since
 - Expires June 30, 2022
- Authority allows measures that increase overall costs to the government

How a Bill Becomes Law: Legislative Vehicles

- COVID relief legislation
- Child Nutrition Reauthorization
- Budget Reconciliation
 - E.g. American Families Plan or Build Back Better
- Annual Appropriations
 - E.g. Continuing Resolutions or Omnibus Appropriations Bills

What happened with waiver authority?

- Last renewed end of Sept. 2021
- Not in mid-February short-term continuing resolution
- Not in mid-March omnibus appropriations bill



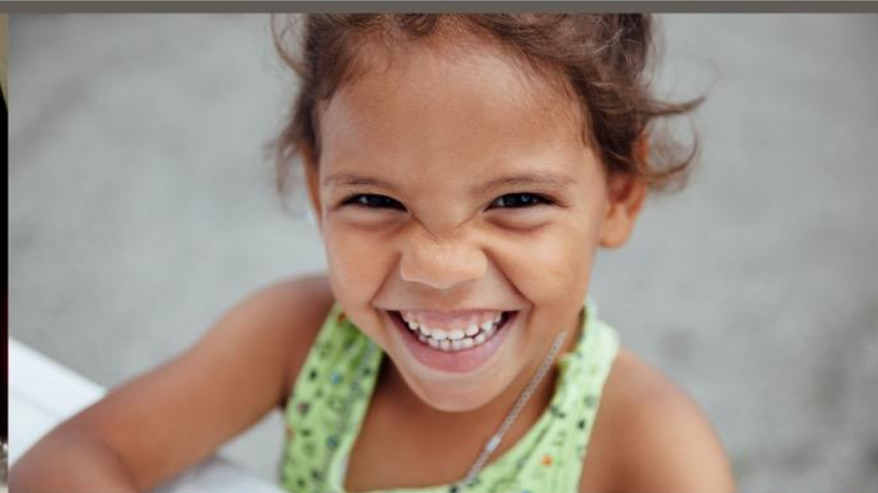


What now?

- Ongoing Congressional advocacy
- Limited hope for authority to help this summer
- Working with USDA on possible flexibilities and guidance

Waiver Status

- Waivers expire June 30, 2022 (regardless of school calendar)
 - School Meal Programs & CACFP on-site monitoring waivers expire 30 days after the end of the public health emergency
 - Waiver to allow SSO operations during SY21-22 ends with the school year
- Remember:
 - No SFSP waivers currently available except for unanticipated school closures during this school year
 - CACFP At-Risk Afterschool & NSLP Snacks end with school year
- States may request CEP deadline extensions



Donna Martin

Director of School Nutrition,
Burke County Public School
District, Georgia



Summer Feeding How to plan???

Donna S. Martin, EdS, RDN, LD, SNS, FAND
Director School Nutrition Program
Burke County Board of Education
Waynesboro, GA

Waivers until
June 30??

Area Eligibility

Parent Pickup

Time waiver/Multiple
meals

Menu pattern

Decisions



SSO or SFSP

SSO

- Must do vegetable sub groups
- Requires 2 grains at lunch
- Require 1 cup of fruit instead of ½ cup for SFSP at Breakfast

SFSP

- Higher reimbursement
- 1 grain at lunch
- More auditing

Self Prep or Vend Meals or be a Vendor



Self-Prep or
Sponsor

Must have own
kitchen
Higher
reimbursement
rate



Vend meals from School or
Hospital



Vend for a local
organization who is an
approved sponsor

Mobile or On-site

Mobile

- Price of Gas
- Does mobile increase participation enough to cover gas cost?
- How many locations can you plan to feed at?
- How long do you have to stay at each site?
- Do you know where the children live?

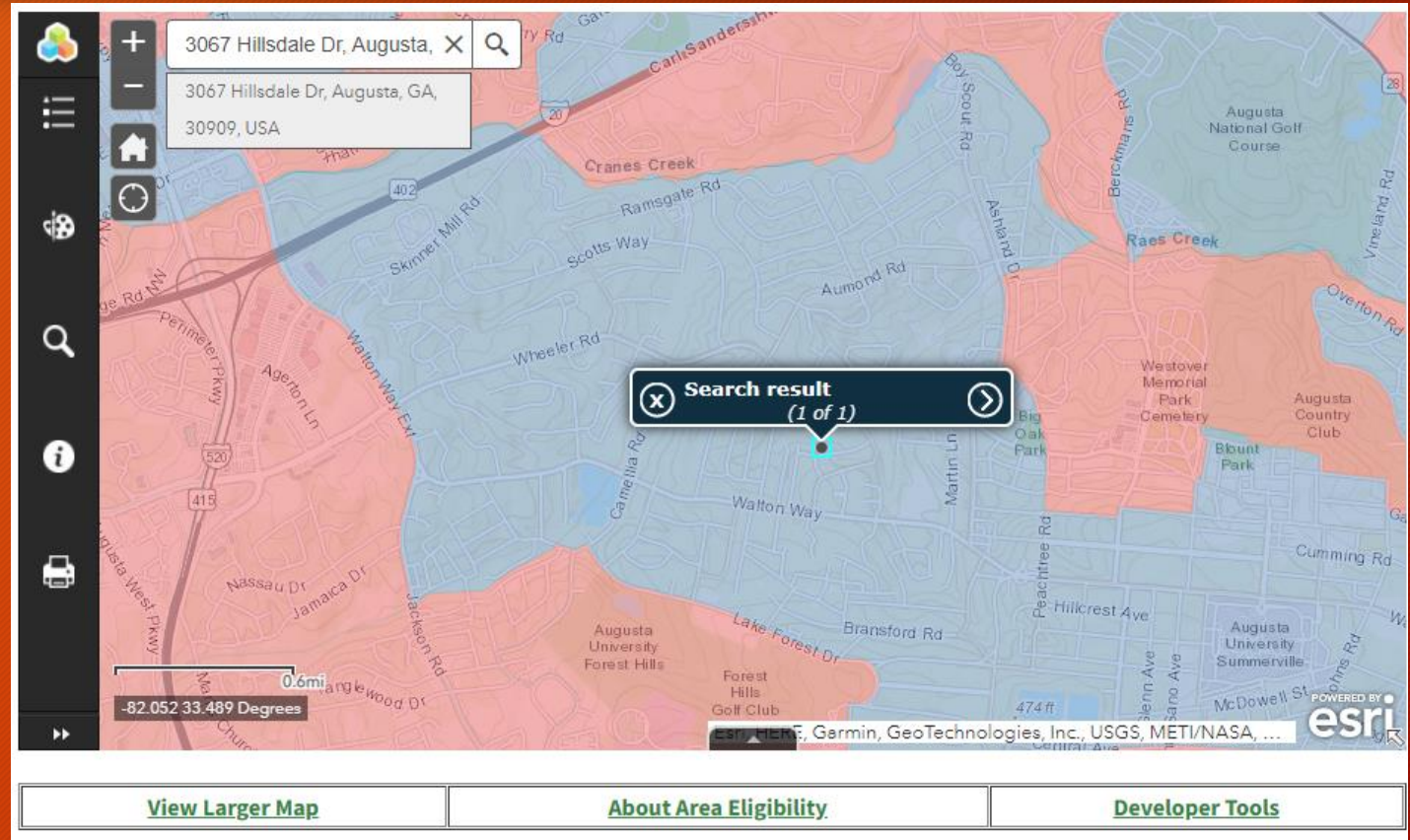
On-Site

Get Permissions!

- Summer School
- Playgrounds
- Parks
- Recreation Centers
- Churches
- Migrant Centers
- Housing Projects
- Summer Camps

Area Eligibility | Food and Nutrition Service (usda.gov)

- Determining sites
- Request form

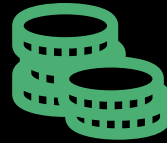


<https://www.fns.usda.gov/area-eligibility>

Menus



Hot, Cold or combination?



Commodities



Plan menus based on supply chain issues you are having

Recruit Staff

School Nutrition Employees

Substitutes

Para-Pros

High School Students

Volunteers

Communication

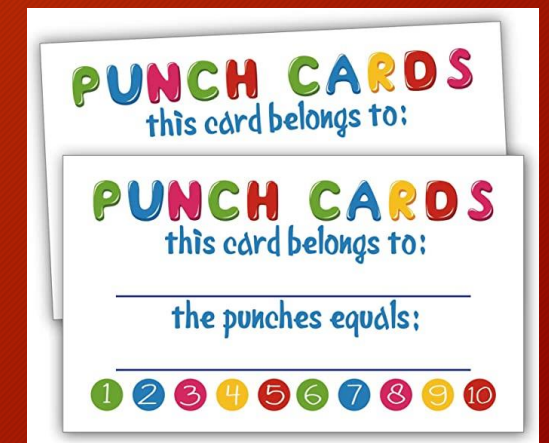
Communicating with parents new model

- Send flyers home before school is out
- Put an article in the newspaper
- Put an article in the school newsletter
- Post it on the county website
- All call out to parents
- Text parents
- Put menu on radio
- Social Media



Increasing Participation

- 4-H
- Teachers
- Whole Punch cards
- Gift Cards



Keys to success



GOOD
COMMUNICATION
ON SITE
LOCATIONS AND
TIMES



GREAT FOOD
THAT
CHILDREN
WANT



HOT MEALS



COOL,
COMFORTABLE
PLACE TO EAT



CONGREGATE
FEEDING



FUN
ACTIVITIES



DEPENDABILITY

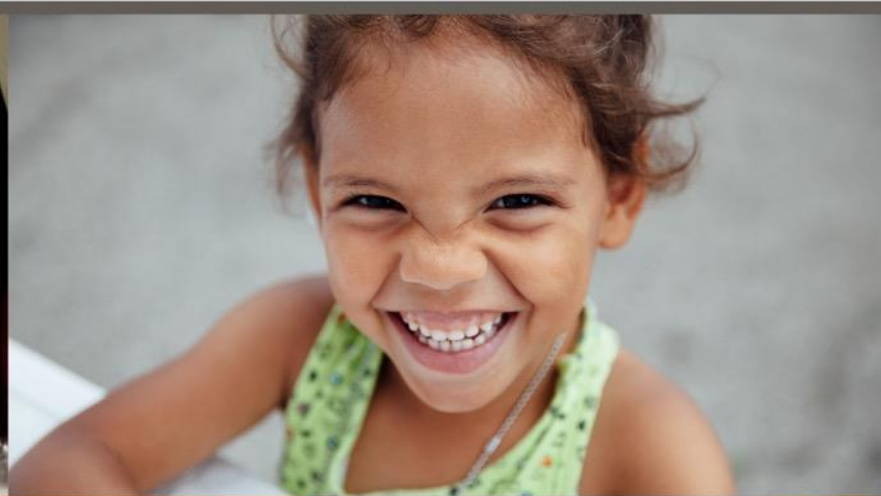


SUPPORT

Thermal Pads/Ice Packs

- Aluminum Foil and towels
- Newspaper





Melissa Weissler

Senior Manager of Child and
Community Nutrition,
Operation Food Search, Missouri





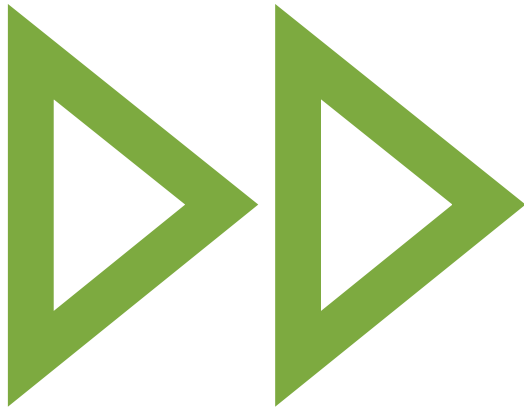
**Operation
Food Search**

Healing Hunger. Strengthening Our Future.

Melissa Weissler

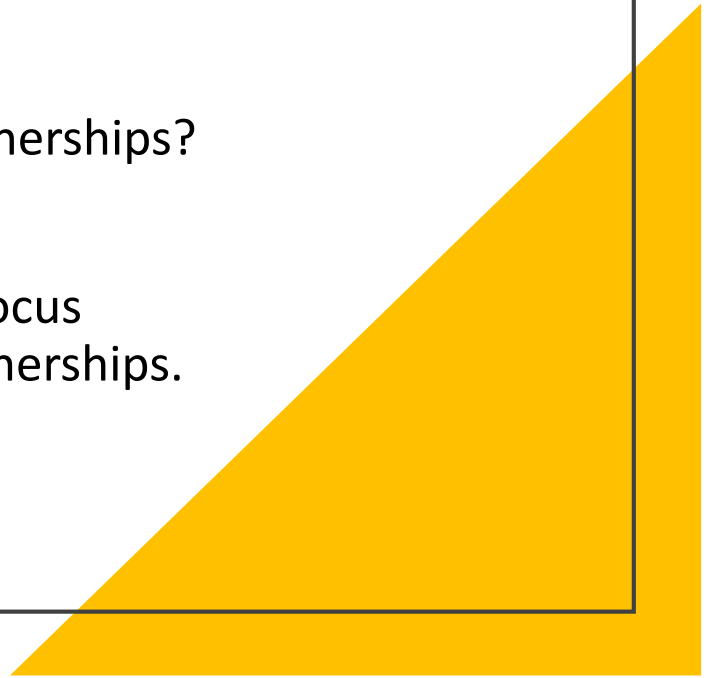
Senior Manager of Child and Community Nutrition

Operation Food Search - St. Louis, MO



Moving Forward in 2022

- What partnerships are still viable?
- How can you reimagine partnerships?
- Know when to cut ties and focus efforts on forging feasible partnerships.





Training

Site operators are at different levels. Meet them where they are and cater to their experience level.

Plan to spend more time than usual coaching and helping site staff execute.

Consider that we're also reintroducing the program to those we serve, and they'll need a refresher on the rules too!



Congregate Feeding Tips

- ✧ Pair meal service with other activities.
- ✧ Consider caregivers in your planning.
- ✧ Invest in equipment to make outdoor sites conducive to sit down service.



Scouting Locations



Pools

Parks

Rec Centers

Libraries

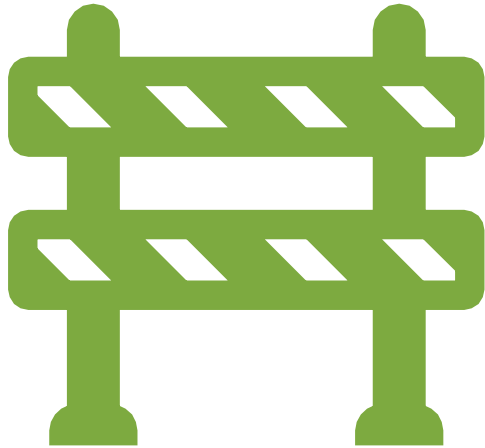
Apartment
Complexes

Farmer's
Markets

Laundromats

Movie Theater
Adjacent

Big Box Store
Adjacent

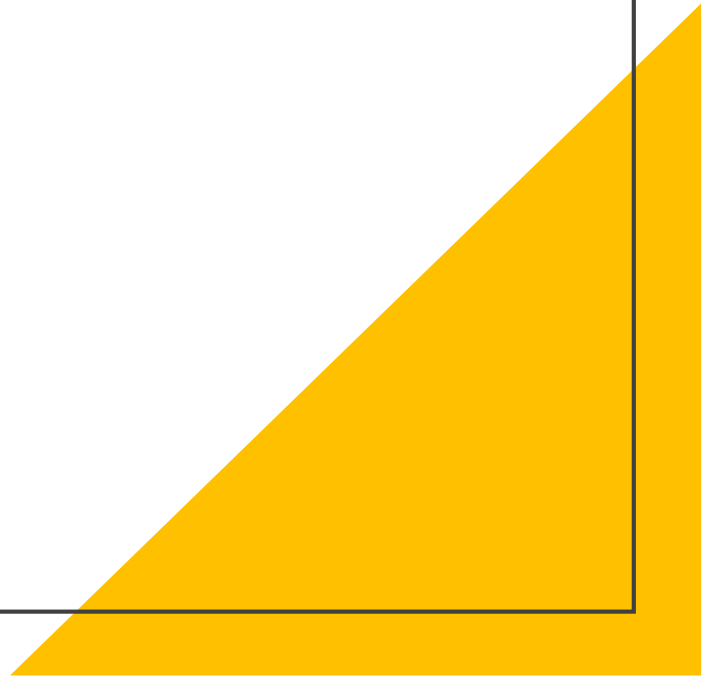


Barriers

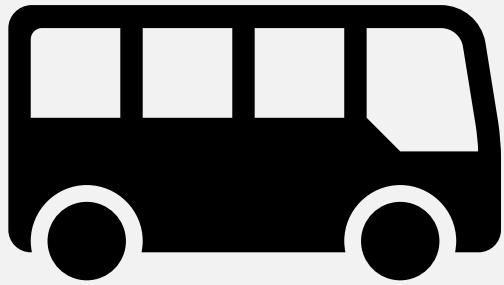
✦ Transportation

✦ Weather

✦ Awareness



Thinking Outside Of The SFSP Box



Mobile Meals



Food Trucks



Meal Time

Set Your Program Up For Success

- ✧ Don't plan in vacuum
- ✧ Be agile
- ✧ Host a kick-off event
- ✧ Start recruiting help now





Q&A

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
SFSP / SSO	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)
	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

Additional Resources

[Staffing Up: Strategies for Working Through Labor Shortages and Challenges](#) (resource)

[Tips for Staffing Summer Meals Programs](#) (resource)

[Tips for Navigating Supply Chain Disruptions](#) (resource)

[Materials for Communicating with Your School Community](#) (sample language in English and Spanish)

[Rural Communities Leading the Way: Introducing Local Foods to Meal Service](#) (resource)

From SNA: [Supply Chain Resources](#) (website)

From USDA: [Planning for a Dynamic School Environment](#) (website)

School's Out, Food's In!

Summer Webinar Series

March 30 @3pm EST – Planning for Summer Meals: Strategies to navigate no-waiver operations

April 13 @1pm EST – Reaching Hard to Reach Communities: Leveraging Innovation and Partnership

May – Promoting Your Summer Meals Program: Strategies and Tips to Promote Your Summer Meals Program

June – Evaluating and Incorporating Feedback into Your Summer Meals Programs: Tips and Promising Practices

July – Thinking 365: Transitioning Your Summer Meals Program to an Afterschool Program through CACFP At-risk

School's Out, Food's In!

Summer Webinar Series

Coming soon!

Summer Meals 101: Back to Basics



Stay in Touch!

Sign up for our newsletter:

www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/subscribe

Visit the CBP website:

www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org



THANK YOU

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