



STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE THE SUMMER MEAL
EXPERIENCE FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES



2020 'School's Out, Food's In' Webinar Series

'School's Out, Food's In' Webinar Series

Webinar recordings and slide decks for all webinars will be [available here](#).

January 21: Engaging Community Partners in Summer Meals Planning for the New Year

February 18: Farm to Summer: Incorporating Local Foods into Your Summer Meals Menu

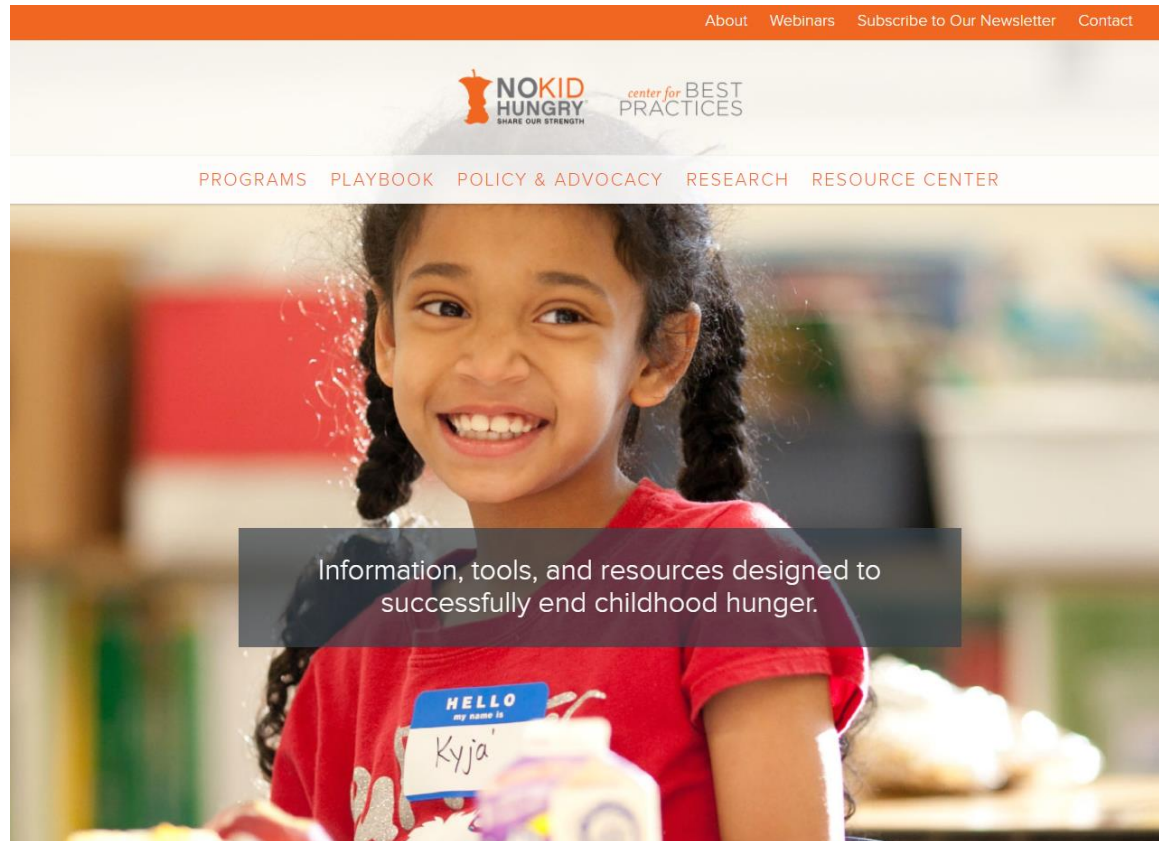
March 18: Strategies to Improve the Summer Meals Experience for Kids and Families

April 21: Managing SFSP Finances: Planning, Budgeting, and Forecasting

May 19: Summer Meals Program Outreach and Awareness

June 16: Sustaining Participation Over the Summer

Visit our website!



bestpractices.nokidhungry.org
Now with an updated Resource Center!

No Kid Hungry's Response: Coronavirus & School Closures

WEBINAR [Serving Meals During COVID-19: Out-of-School Time Partners](#)

Tuesday, March 19 at 2PM ET

Join this webinar to hear the latest updates on guidelines and opportunities for providing meals during COVID-19 for out-of-school time programs. No Kid Hungry will speak alongside partners from FRAC, the Afterschool Alliance, National Summer Learning Association, YMCA of the USA, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, National Recreation and Park Association, Feeding America, and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

NEW RESOURCE [FAQs On Child Nutrition Program Options Available During School Closures Related To The Coronavirus](#)

This resource outlines Frequently Asked Questions about program options available during school closures due to the Coronavirus. This resource is based on guidance and options available as of 3/17/2020.

GRANTS AVAILABLE [Apply Now](#)

Areas of funding support include: non-congregate and home delivered meals, emergency meals programs and extended meals service, school and community pantries, backpack programs, and other identified opportunities to address the growing number of children and families who may lose access to meals. School districts, community organizations, and government agencies in need of assistance can contact No Kid Hungry via the linked [COVID-19 support inquiry form](#).



Agenda

- The Basics
- Adult Meals
- Questions + Answers
- Teen Engagement
- Questions + Answers

Today's Speakers



Emily Pia
Program Manager
No Kid Hungry



Kirsten Craft
Senior Innovation Manager
No Kid Hungry



Riya Rahman
Youth Engagement Manager
No Kid Hungry



THE BASICS

Summer Meals?

The **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)** is a federally funded, state administered, and locally sponsored program of USDA that allows children to access nutritious meals free of charge when school is out.



12%

Current Need that is
met by the program

We all have a role to play



Develop and test
new ideas



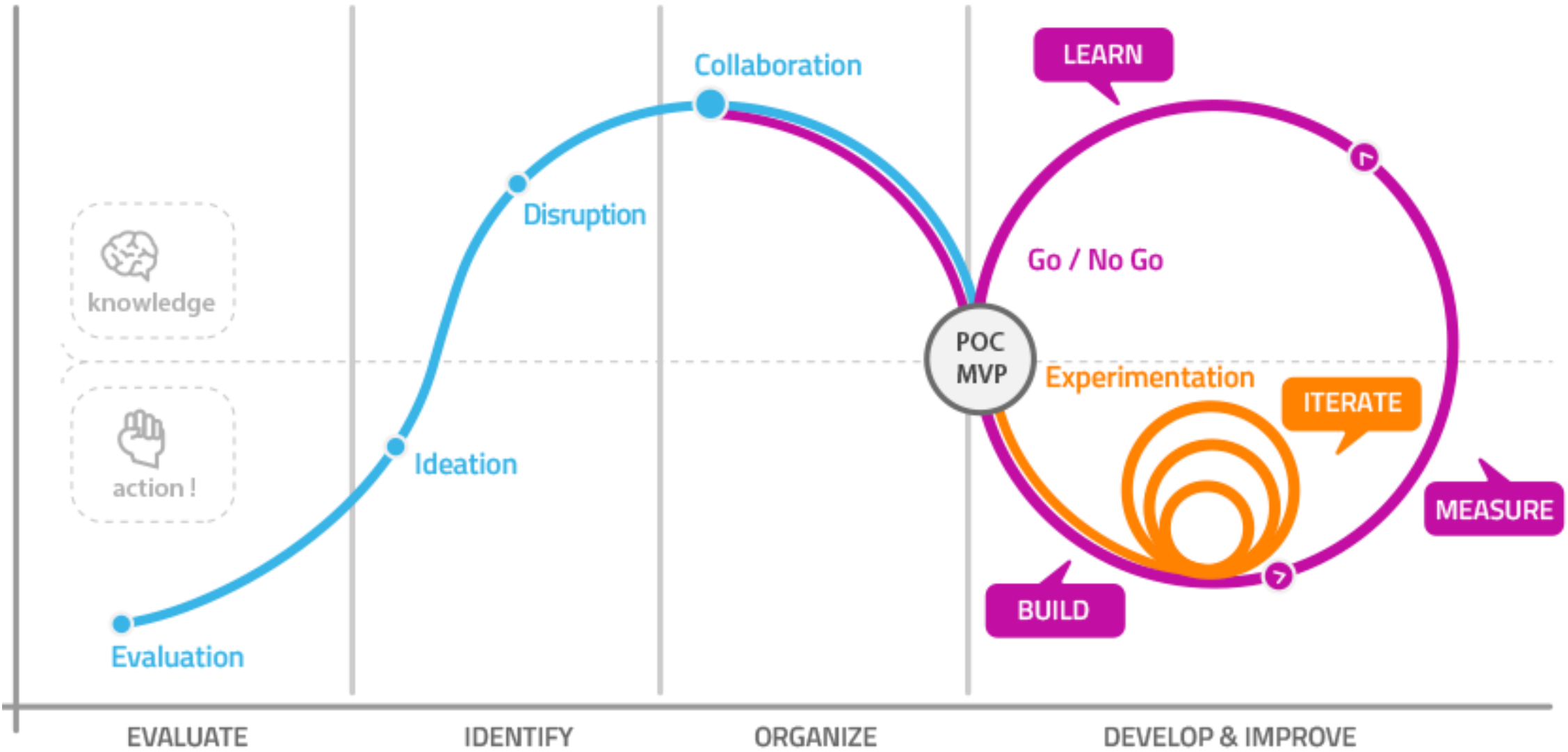
Provide assistance
and support



Find creative ways
to be collaborative



ADULT MEALS



Adult Meals

- One proposal from Meriden Food and Nutrition Services stood out during our review
- The proposal sought to test the assumption:
 - Most people agree that it is important to eat together as a family. If caregivers had the chance to eat summer meals with kids they would choose to do so and come back at higher rates.

Adult Meals Pilot

- Pilot designed in about three months
- Seven pilot sites (parks and parking lots)
- Implemented over time to manage capacity concerns
- Sites were managed by school district employees



Adult Meals Pilot Results

Serving free adult meals did have a positive impact on child participation. To make this determination, baseline data from 2018 was used for the four repeat pilot sites.

Site	2018 Child ADP	2019 Child ADP	Percent Change
Site A	31	36	16%
Site B	50	84	68%
Site C	52	80	54%
Site D	97	87	-10%

Caregiver Feedback

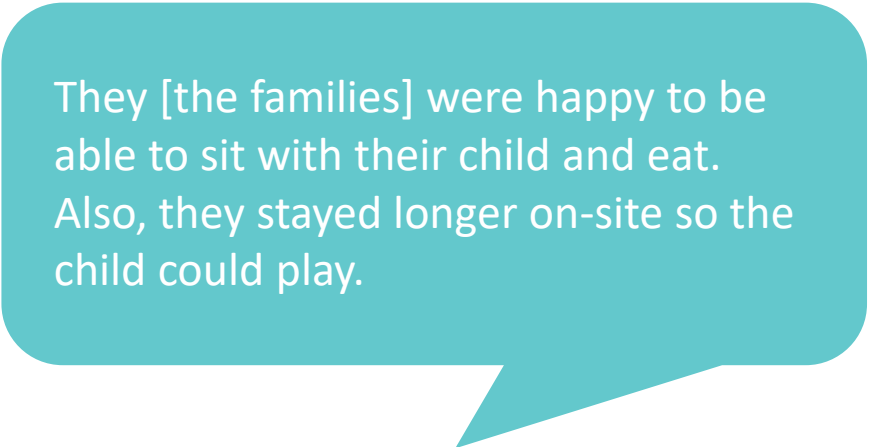
- They served one adult meal for every three meals served to kids.
- 48 percent of caregivers indicated that they had not been to a summer meal site before this summer.
- Families liked it!

There are times I don't make enough money to fill my fridge and only have enough for my kids to eat.

Because we could come as a family and all eat. It was convenient, other families thought so too. So we all came more often and we created a little community...

Site Supervisor Feedback

- All five site supervisors surveyed thought the tweak made a difference for families.
- Four site supervisors reported that the tweak made a difference for them.



They [the families] were happy to be able to sit with their child and eat. Also, they stayed longer on-site so the child could play.



External Feedback

- Virginia Department of Social Services
 - One pilot site at a library
 - 68% increase in ADP
- Indiana School Nutrition Conference
 - 80% selected adult meals

Why might this make a difference?

- For summer meals to be successful, families have to opt in.
- Many families enjoy eating together as a family.
- When everyone can come it feels more like a community event than a social service.
- Many parents can benefit from a free or reduced price meal.



Questions?



TEEN ENGAGEMENT

Idea

Most summer sites have a hard time reaching teens. What could happen if sites employed teens as program ambassadors and site supervisors?

Employing Teens at Sites

- The team assumed that teens would be able to manage summer meal sites and that as employees, they would see gains in participation.
- All meals served were vended.
- Teens were responsible for serving meals, collecting paperwork, and planning daily activities.
- Most teens employed were from the neighborhood their site was located in.



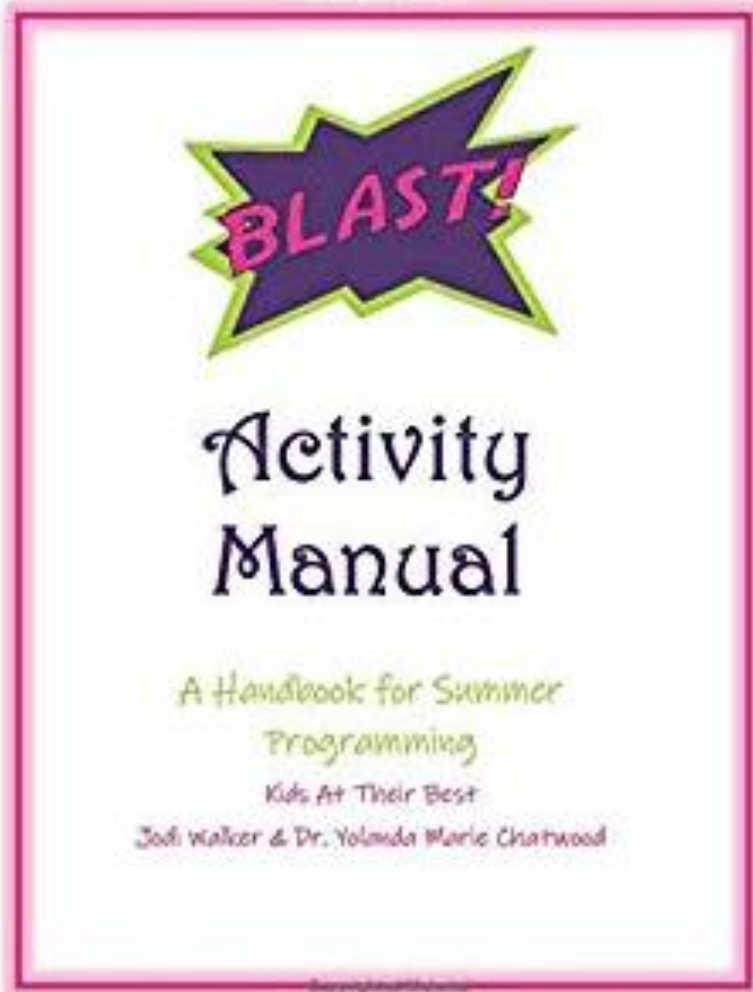


Making It Work

- Teens were paid modest stipends ~\$75 a week.
- Teens were trained and required to attend weekly staff meetings.
- Teens were equipped with the resources and freedom needed to make their own decisions and succeed.



Having a Plan



- A [custom activity manual](#) designed to help teens plan each day.
 - Organized by activity type and weather type



Results

- Teens could manage summer meal sites.
- Over the summer 49 teens were part of the program.
- The teens managed six summer meal sites and served a total of 6,242 meals, which was a 120% increase from the previous summer.
- Many teens reported that if they had not worked at a site they would have “been bored” or “gotten into trouble.”
- For many, this was their first and only option for summer employment.

Why might this make a difference?

- Teens know where kids live in the community and can go the extra mile to get kids to attend meal service.
- Younger kids in the community may look up to the teens and like spending time with them.
- Teens, even when they managed sites, could still be eligible for program meals, functionally creating an increase in teen participation.



Questions?



[Register for our next webinar!](#)

Managing SFSP Finances: Planning, Budgeting, and Forecasting

April 21 at 2:00PM ET

