SAMPLE LOCAL POLICY:

SUMMER MEALS MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

**INTRODUCTION**

This resource provides local policymakers and advocates with sample language to use in a Mayoral Proclamation recognizing the importance of summer meals programs. Consult the [*Companion Guide*](https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/resource/summer-meals-proclamation-and-resolution-sample-policies-companion-guide)[<https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/resource/summer-meals-proclamation-and-resolution-sample-policies-companion-guide>] for instructions and data to complete the state-specific information included in the proclamation.

**SAMPLE MAYORAL PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, summer is the hungriest time of year for many children when families struggle to make up for lost school meals and food insecurity tends to increase;[[1]](#footnote-1)and

**WHEREAS**, [PERCENT-COMPANION COLUMN B] children were food insecure in [STATE] in 2019,[[2]](#footnote-2) meaning that they did not have consistent access to adequate food for an active, healthy life; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated food insecurity, particularly among households with children and communities of color, and families continue to feel its effects; and

**WHEREAS**, children who are food insecure are more likely to miss school, perform worse academically, experience social, emotional, and mental health challenges, forego healthcare, and develop chronic disease;[[3]](#footnote-3) and

**WHEREAS**, the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option and the Summer Food Service Program, which are funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the [STATE AGENCY/AGENCIES – COMPANION COLUMN C (AND D)] in [STATE], play a vital role in helping low-income children get the nutrition they need during the summer months, and help alleviate food insecurity;[[4]](#footnote-4) and

**WHEREAS**, summer meal programs are most effective when paired with educational and enrichment activities, which provide students a fun, safe place to be with friends and stay active, help curb the learning loss experienced during the summer months, especially among low-income children, and prepare students to return to school ready to learn and thrive;[[5]](#footnote-5) and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 2.8 million children nationwide participated in summer meal programs on an average summer day in 2019; however, only [PERCENT – COMPANION COLUMN E] of eligible children participated in summer meals programs in [STATE] that year;[[6]](#footnote-6) and

**WHEREAS**, summer meal programs filled a critical need in communities during the COVID-19 pandemic thanks to program flexibilities that allowed them to adapt and provide nutritious meals to children facing hunger; and

**WHEREAS**, the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (Summer EBT) complements summer meal programs by providing an additional grocery benefit to families with children who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and likewise alleviates food insecurity and improves child nutrition;[[7]](#footnote-7) and

**WHEREAS**, my administration is committed to increasing awareness about summer meal programs and helping ensure that more kids have access to Summer Meal sites in [CITY] so no child goes hungry this summer.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, [FIRST NAME] [LAST NAME], Mayor of [CITY], do hereby proclaim [MONTH] [DAY(S)], 2022 as SUMMER MEALS [DAY/WEEK/MONTH].

1. Nord M, Romig K. Hunger in the Summer: Seasonal Food Insecurity and the National School Lunch and Summer Food Service Programs. *Journal of Children and Poverty*. 2016;12(2): 141-158. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Feeding America. *State-By-State Resource: The Impact of the Coronavirus on Food Insecurity*. 2021. <https://feedingamericaaction.org/resources/state-by-state-resource-the-impact-of-coronavirus-on-food-insecurity/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Shankar P, et al. Association of Food Insecurity with Children's Behavioral, Emotional, and Academic Outcomes: A Systematic Review. Journal of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics. 2017;38(2):135-150; Thomas M, Miller D, Morrissey T. Food Insecurity and Child Health. Pediatrics. 2019;144 (4): e20190397; Laraia BA. Food insecurity and chronic disease. *Adv Nutr*. 2013;4(2):203-212. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Miller DP. Accessibility of Summer Meals and the Food Insecurity of Low-Income Households with Children. *Public Health Nutr*. 2016;19(11):2079-2089. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Augustine C, et al. *Learning from Summer: Effects of Voluntary Summer Learning Programs on Low-Income Urban Youth*. RAND Corporation. 2016. <https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1557.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Food Research & Action Center. *Hunger Doesn’t Take a Vacation: Summer Nutrition Status Report.* 2020. <https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/FRAC-Summer-Nutrition-Report-2020.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Collins AM, et al. *Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer for Children (SEBTC) Demonstration: Summary Report*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. 2016. <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/ops/sebtcfinalreport.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)