

# ENDING CHILDHOOD HUNGER

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A GOVERNOR'S CHECKLIST

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*center for* BEST  
PRACTICES

THERE ARE MANY WAYS A GOVERNOR CAN MAKE ENDING CHILDHOOD HUNGER A PRIORITY. They can use their bully pulpit to mobilize around the issue, activate resources that improve programs proven to end childhood hunger, and legislate modifications to the framework of child nutrition programs. This checklist outlines a host of options that a governor can take to end childhood hunger.

## GENERAL ACTION TO END CHILDHOOD HUNGER

### MOBILIZE

- Launch a public campaign to call attention to the issue of childhood hunger and mobilize public and private resources around solutions
- Convene a multi-sector Governor's Task Force on childhood hunger to develop and monitor an action plan to end childhood hunger
- Host a town hall to promote goals and achievements regarding childhood hunger
- Convene anti-hunger leaders and advocates to share priorities and strategies
- Host congressional delegations to discuss state and federal issues on childhood hunger
- Join existing national efforts to raise awareness about childhood hunger, including Hunger Action Month/No Kid Hungry September
- Promote food budgeting and food preparation skills, like those promoted through Cooking Matters courses and Cooking Matters at the Store supermarket tours at [CookingMatters.org](http://CookingMatters.org)
- Promote the No Kid Hungry School Calculator to school decision makers to help schools and districts understand the dollars and cents behind expanding or modifying child nutrition programs at [NoKidHungry.org/SchoolCalculator](http://NoKidHungry.org/SchoolCalculator)

### ACTIVATE

- Establish public goals for ending childhood hunger including targets for increasing participation in federal nutrition programs
- Convene agency leaders to establish program linkages across all state programs serving low-income families
- Establish a statewide hotline to help families access food and resources
- Leverage existing federal funding streams to incentivize program participation and expansion
- Develop and implement statewide benefits screening tool for all child nutrition programs
- Consolidate child nutrition programs under one state agency

## SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM



### MOBILIZE

- Sponsor a school breakfast challenge
- Convene superintendents to encourage support of alternative school breakfast
- Visit a school serving alternative breakfast to help build public support

### ACTIVATE

- Maximize effective implementation of Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)
- Encourage the expansion of direct certification of students
- Encourage the State Superintendent of Education to issue a memo clarifying time spent eating breakfast in the classroom may count towards instructional time
- Issue a memo supporting implementation and adoption of alternative breakfast delivery models and encouraging education decision makers to use the No Kid Hungry School Calculator at [NoKidHungry.org/SchoolCalculator](http://NoKidHungry.org/SchoolCalculator)

### LEGISLATE

- Support school breakfast legislation to incentivize or mandate breakfast after the bell and universal meals
- Eliminate reduced-price meals category in severe-need schools

## SUMMER MEALS



### MOBILIZE

- Raise awareness about free summer meals through PSAs, robo calls and visits to summer feeding sites at schools, parks and other locations
- Promote summer meals hotline and texting number on state government websites and on state outreach materials for summer meals

### ACTIVATE

- Create a comprehensive, collaborative plan with state agencies, schools, and non-profits to prioritize increasing summer meals participation
- Encourage state agencies and non-profits to prioritize sponsor retention
- Pursue waivers from USDA to address unmet needs
- Authorize use of state vehicles and facilities to support summer feeding sponsors and sites
- Authorize volunteer time for state employees to support summer feeding sites
- Utilize a single provider application for afterschool meals and summer meals program

### LEGISLATE

- Support legislation to mandate that high-need schools participate in the summer meals program
- Ease vendor procurement requirements
- Standardize and consolidate health and safety regulations for out of school time (afterschool and summer) meal provisions

## OUT OF SCHOOL TIME MEALS

### AFTERSCHOOL AND WEEKENDS



### MOBILIZE

- Create a comprehensive, collaborative plan with state agencies, schools and non-profits to expand afterschool and weekend meals reimbursed by the Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Send a letter to all the superintendents encouraging them to offer afterschool meals at all schools with 50% or more free and reduced-price eligible students and encourage them to use the No Kid Hungry School Calculator to evaluate costs and benefits
- Visit a school-based afterschool meals program to draw attention to the problem of childhood hunger and highlight a best practice

### ACTIVATE

- Work with agencies to improve program efficiency by having a single out of school time application process as well as streamlined monitoring and reporting
- Authorize use of state vehicles and facilities to support afterschool and weekend meal programs
- Authorize volunteer time for state employees to support afterschool and weekend meal programs
- Issue a memo clarifying that school districts may adapt bus schedules to allow schools to serve afterschool meals in the classroom after the school day ends

### LEGISLATE

- Pass legislation providing incentives or requiring high-need schools to participate in the afterschool meals program
- Increase state funding for afterschool programs and link to participation in the afterschool meals program
- Ease vendor procurement requirements
- Standardize and consolidate health and safety regulations for out of school time meal provision

## SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

### MOBILIZE

- Increase outreach activities through increased use of federal outreach funds
- Target outreach efforts to include immigrant families
- Encourage SNAP offices to connect families with Cooking Matters at the Store
- Promote experiential opportunities such as supermarket tours and nutrition education classes as a vital component of SNAP Ed

### ACTIVATE

- Waive in-person interviews
- Adopt 12 or 24-month recertification

### LEGISLATE

- Eliminate asset tests
- Utilize Dependent Care deduction
- Maximize Affordable Care Act opportunities
- Maximize use of categorical eligibility to create administrative savings

## SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

### MOBILIZE

- Encourage WIC offices to connect with Cooking Matters courses to offer food preparation and food shopping skills education with a focus on maximizing family retention
- Encourage WIC offices to connect families with Cooking Matters at the Store as part of their nutrition education services and connect participants to existing tours in their community

### ACTIVATE

- Support Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) implementation
- Support early implementation of split tender policies
- Request yearly recertification for infants and children

“FOR CHILDREN TO SUCCEED AND THRIVE, THEY NEED ACCESS TO HEALTHY MEALS EVERY DAY. BY WORKING TOGETHER, WE’LL SOLVE THIS PROBLEM.”

– Rick Snyder  
Governor of Michigan (R)

“IT WILL TAKE ALL OF US—PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS, PARENTS, STATE AGENCIES, CORPORATE PARTNERS AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS—TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR NEXT GENERATION HAS THE ESSENTIAL NUTRITION THEY NEED TO SUCCEED.”

– Martin O’Malley  
Governor of Maryland (D)

### SHARE OUR STRENGTH’S NO KID HUNGRY CAMPAIGN

No child should grow up hungry in America, but one in five children struggles with hunger. Share Our Strength’s No Kid Hungry® campaign is ending childhood hunger in America by ensuring all children get the healthy food they need, every day. The No Kid Hungry campaign connects kids in need to effective nutrition programs like school breakfast and summer meals and teaches low-income families to cook healthy, affordable meals through Cooking Matters. This work is accomplished through the No Kid Hungry network, made up of private citizens, public officials, nonprofits, business leaders and others providing innovative hunger solutions in their communities. Join us at [NoKidHungry.org](http://NoKidHungry.org)

