SAMPLE SUMMER MEALS PROGRAM PROCLAMATION

**Hunger Free Summer for Children**

**WHEREAS**, More than x% of [*state residents*] struggle to provide enough food for their families, and more than x% of [*state]* children are food insecure, meaning that they do not have regular access to adequate food[[1]](#footnote-1); and

**WHEREAS**, X percent of low-income [state] families find themselves without enough food in the summer months and x% of low-income families find it harder to make ends meet in the summer months;

**WHEREAS**, Hunger and food insecurity among low-income children increases during the summer months as families struggle to make up for lost school meals such as school breakfast and lunch;

**WHEREAS**, Low-income families spend an additional $300 per month in the summer months to provide food for their themselves and their children; and

**WHEREAS**, Summer is a critical time for children’s academic, physical, and mental development. Studies show that low-income children are particularly at a higher risk for food insecurity, hunger and obesity during the summer months, and lose several months of learning in mathematics and reading; and

**WHEREAS**, Studies show that children require consistent and adequate nutrition all year long, and the Summer Meals Program provide a nutritious, no-cost option food for families and children struggling with hunger and food insecurity during summer months; and

**WHEREAS**, Children who are food insecure suffer from increased risk of chronic diseases, increased rates of behavioral problems, decreased academic achievement, and long-term social and economic consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, More than X children participate in free and reduced-price school lunch, and X children participate in free and reduced-price school breakfast; but only X children[[2]](#footnote-2) participate in the Summer Meals Program on average in July, the peak month of national program activity; and

**WHEREAS**, Studies show that increased participation in the Summer Meals Program is associated with lower risks of household food insecurity; and

**WHEREAS**, Summer Meals Program play a vital role in helping low-income children access free, healthy meals during the summer time thereby keeping them from going hungry when schools are closed; and

**WHEREAS**, Summer Meals Program can help children stay healthy and prepare them to return to school ready to learn and thrive, and also provide children a fun, safe place to be with friends and stay active; and

**WHEREAS**, By increasing awareness about the Summer Meals program through outreach in the community and investing in summer programming to attract more kids to meal sites, [STATE] can increase access to Summer Meals program; and

**WHEREAS**, [STATE] is committed to ensure that no child goes hungry this summer.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, [ELECTED OFFICIALS NAME], [ELECTED OFFICIAL’S TITLE], do hereby proclaim [month, day, year] as [Summer Meals Week/ Month or Hunger Free Summer Week/ Month.]

1. Coleman-Jensen, Alisha et al. 2018. [*Household Food Security in the United States in 2017*](https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=90022). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Unite States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services. [*Summer Food Service program: Average Daily Attendance*](https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/04sffypart-4.pdf)( As of May 2019) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)