

# SUMMER MEALS AND LIBRARIES



**1 in 5 US children**  
lives in poverty.<sup>1</sup>



**12.5 million US children**  
live in food insecure households<sup>2</sup>



**3 million children**  
are reached by USDA Summer  
Nutrition Programs per day.<sup>3</sup>



**Only 1 in 7**  
**eligible children**  
receives summer lunch.<sup>3</sup>

**Communities miss \$3.96**  
in federal funding for each lunch an  
eligible child does not receive.<sup>4</sup>



**Millions of dollars**  
are being left on the table by  
almost every state.<sup>3</sup>

## WHY LIBRARIES?



Establish more summer  
meal sites to meet  
community need.



Pair summer meals with  
engaging learning  
opportunities. Feed minds  
AND bellies.



Provide families with a  
safe space to eat, learn,  
and play.



Hungry kids don't read!

[1] Source: Food Research & Action Center, *United States Profile of Hunger, Poverty and Federal Nutrition Programs*

[2] Source: USDA Economic Research Service, *Household Food Security in the United States in 2017*

[3] Source: Food Resource & Action Center, *Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation: Summer Nutrition Status Report, June 2017*

[4] Source: USDA Food and Nutrition Services, *Summer Food Service Program: 2019 Reimbursement Rates*



# HOW YOUR LIBRARY CAN BECOME A MEAL SITE

The USDA's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) makes free healthy meals and snacks available to young people in communities with high rates of poverty. Many public libraries already participate as meal or snack sites, or provide programming to nearby feeding sites. Libraries can incorporate their summer library programs and other fun, literacy-based activities to support child well-being and send children and teens back to school ready to learn. Here's how you can participate:

## DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY

- Enter the library's address in the USDA's Area Eligibility Map: [www.fns.usda.gov/areaeligibility](http://www.fns.usda.gov/areaeligibility)
- If you are in a PINK area, you are eligible to be an SFSP site.
- If you are in a BLUE area, you are not eligible under area eligibility.
- If you are in a blue area but adjacent or very close to a pink area, contact your state SFSP administering agency using this directory: [www.fns.usda.gov/contacts](http://www.fns.usda.gov/contacts). From the "By Program" menu, select SFSP. State administering agencies are permitted to use weighted averages to calculate eligibility when appropriate. Weighted averages may change your eligibility if you are adjacent to eligible areas.

## LOCATE A SPONSOR

- Sponsors are establishments that handle the financial, administrative and food service responsibilities for SFSP in an area.
- Contact the SFSP site nearest your library and ask for their sponsor's contact information. Identify existing sites using the USDA's Capacity Builder Map: [www.fns.usda.gov/capacitybuilder](http://www.fns.usda.gov/capacitybuilder)
- If there are no SFSP sites near your library and you are in an eligible area, contact your school district administrative offices or the food bank that serves your area to discuss the possibility of their becoming an SFSP sponsor and using your library as a site.
- Or, contact the SFSP administering agency for your state. The state administering agency can advise and refer you to the nearest sponsor. For a directory of state administering agencies: [www.fns.usda.gov/contacts](http://www.fns.usda.gov/contacts). From the "By Program" menu, select SFSP.

## OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT SUMMER MEALS

- If SFSP is not a good fit for your library or your service area is not eligible, you can still host a summer food program by working with businesses, nonprofits, and other community partners to provide meals or snacks.
- Contact SFSP sites in your area to discuss how you can support and enrich their summer food program through outreach.
- Publicize local SFSP sites to your library patrons who may not be aware that free healthy meals are available in the community.



For more information about the Summer Food Service Program, access "Libraries and Summer Food: A How-To for Public Libraries" at [www.csllpreads.org/libraries-and-summer-food](http://www.csllpreads.org/libraries-and-summer-food)



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