



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition Service

Mid-Atlantic Region

300 Corporate Blvd
Robbinsville, NJ
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May 17, 2016

Dear Community Leader:

As a leader within your state, you can be key to energizing your communities. USDA's summer meals program helps to fill the gap for children who depend on free and reduced price meals when they are in school. Summertime shouldn't be hungry time for our children.

Some of your local agencies may already be participating in the summer meals program, but we hope you will share this information to encourage others to do so. They can help in many ways:

With many schools no longer offering summer classes due to budgetary constraints, leaders and community organizations are stepping up and provide programs and environments where children can be safe and productive during the summer. Your communities may have summer **employment programs for youths**; we can provide the meals.

Your local agencies may opt to **open a feeding site** where you serve meals during a supervised time period. The State administering agency will help match you up with a reliable nonprofit program organization that will sponsor the operation, provide meals and training, and be administratively and financially responsible for the operation.

You can **get the word out** about Summer Meals through our outreach toolkit at: www.summerfood.usda.gov. The toolkit includes sample outreach plans, templates, customizable flyers, door hangers, letters to parents, activity sheets for children, and attendance certificates.

Your community groups could **volunteer** at the feeding sites located around their community by serving food, cleaning up, or providing enrichment activities to give the children an incentive to come to the facility.

We are counting on your support and you can count on our help. If you have any questions, please contact Terry Roden at 609-259-5041 or terry.roden@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Patricia N. Dombroski
Administrator
Mid-Atlantic Region
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service

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