

School's Out!



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# SUMMER MEALS NEWSLETTER

## Upcoming USDA and Partner Events

### Summer Meals Matter: Recruiting and Retaining Summer Meal Program Sites:

January 4, 2018

1:00 PM-2:00 PM EST

Food Research and Action Center

### Capacity Builder Webinar For Advanced Users:

January 9, 2018

2:00-3:00 pm EST

USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)



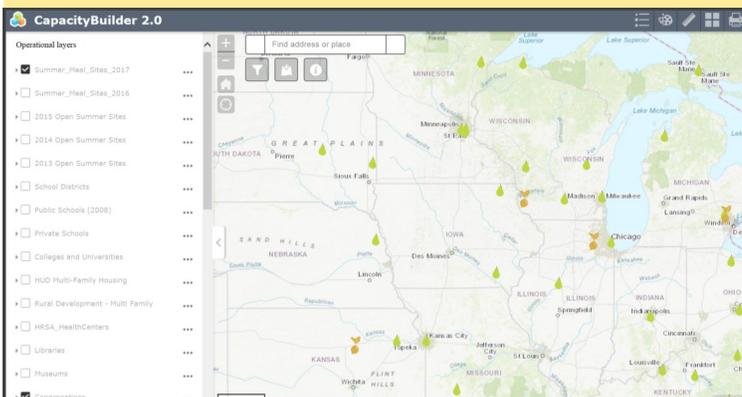
## What's New: FNS's Official Texting Number 97779

This upcoming summer, FNS is debuting a new text number. Folks can text **"Summer Meals"** to 97779 to find 2018 Summer sites. This FNS text number is an additional tool that families can use to find Summer sites. Sponsors are welcome to promote which ever number that is most convenient for them.

In addition to the texting number, FNS also has a [Summer Meals Site Finder website](#) that families can use to locate summer meals site throughout the county. Please note that site information for 2018 will start becoming available in early May.

## FNS Tool Spotlight!

The [Capacity Builder](#) allow users to visualize "layers" of information, such as the area eligibility data, existing sites and potential site locations (multi-family housing units, libraries, museums, and schools and more). The Capacity Builder is a powerful tool for State agencies and sponsors to evaluate previous summer's performance as well as identify areas where there are gaps in summer meal access.



## Winter Checklist

- ❑ Sign up for and attend mandatory sponsor trainings
- ❑ Determine which sites are returning
- ❑ Explore new site options. Review our [Sponsor Outreach toolkit](#) to get more ideas!
- ❑ Reevaluate your site recruitment strategy or develop a new one! [Here](#) is a tool to help you maximize your success.
- ❑ Meet with community partners
- ❑ Plan site staff training, meal production and delivery, and programs and activities
- ❑ Seek out [additional funding](#)



## [Free Summer Meals](#) [Food Safety Kits!](#)

The Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) is now accepting online pre-orders for the Summer Meals Food Safety Kits

This free resource is intended for distribution to traditional Summer Food Service Program sites that operate year round. If this is a resource you would like, contact your State agency. Let your State agency know that they must submit their [orders online](#) by January 12, 2018.

