



Department of Transportation

Despite continued growth, transportation to and from Summer Meal sites remains a barrier to Program participation. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) works to ensure a fast, safe, efficient, accessible, and convenient transportation system that enhances the quality of life of Americans.

Go to [Resources](#).

Site Activities

Sponsors can engage with the local DOT by collaborating on transportation-themed site activities. Why not try some of these activities at your sites?

- Host a “Bike Safety Awareness Day;”
- Invite a transportation engineer to lead a “Design Your Own Route” activity, where kids can create imaginary bus, bicycle, or pedestrian routes in their communities;
- Have a “Walking Field Trip” on a local trail;
- Host a “Bus Safety 101 Day;”
- Invite local pedestrian advocacy groups to share safe walking tips with kids;
- Provide transportation-themed coloring books, word searches, and quizzes;
or
- Invite local DOT staff to give kid-friendly presentations on transportation safety.

State DOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinators may be willing to assist sponsors in developing a local DOT partnership. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center has State contacts and resources.

http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/data/state_contacts.cfm.



11/30/16

Summer Meals Toolkit

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider,
Employer and Lender

DOT Grant Funding – How Does it Work?

A major way the USDOT helps communities pursue their transportation goals is by issuing grants to eligible recipients for planning, vehicle purchases, facility construction, operations, and other purposes.

<http://www.dot.gov/>

Most DOT grants are allocated to States, and then distributed to private nonprofits, government authorities, and other organizations. Sponsors interested in benefitting from the resources DOT has to offer can partner with past DOT grantees, such as the county Parks and Recreation Department, or work with their States on pursuing grant opportunities. Many DOT grants prioritize serving elderly and disabled individuals, which may make Summer Meal sites working with intergenerational populations key candidates for DOT funding.

Here is a list of DOT grants that may be of interest to Summer Meal sponsors and partners. To learn more, and to view a full list of grants, see DOT’s *Grants and Programs Overview*.

<http://www.dot.gov/livability/grants-programs>

Grants with Non-DOT Federal Dollar Matching

The following Federal transportation grants may use non-DOT Federal dollars, including Summer Meal reimbursements and administrative funds, to meet the required funding match. Matching funds must also support transportation expenses and otherwise be consistent with the specific terms and conditions of the grant award.

- *Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Program*
Funds programs that enhance the mobility of elderly and disabled community members.
- *Job Access and Reverse Commute Program*
Supports projects that transport low-income individuals to work and work-related activities, including childcare services.





- *New Freedom Program*
Funds projects that reduce barriers and expand transportation options to persons with disabilities.
- *Non-Urbanized Area Formula Grant Program*
Provides funding for transportation related planning, including improved bus systems, in areas with populations below 50,000.

Grants Not Eligible for Non-DOT Federal Dollar Matching

These additional DOT grants are not eligible for the non-DOT Federal dollar match, but present an opportunity for Summer Meal sponsors to partner with other community stakeholders working to improve options for transportation-disadvantaged populations.

- *Bus and Bus Facilities Program*
Provides funding for new and replacement buses, bus-related equipment, and bus facilities.
- *Public Transportation on Indian Reservations*
Supports projects that enhance access to public transportation in Indian Country.
- *Safe Routes to School Program*
Funds projects that improve safety near schools, such as safer street crossings;
- *Surface Transportation Program*
Offers funding for transit or highway purposes, including carpool projects and bus facility improvements.
- *Urbanized Area Formula Grant Program*
Provides funding for transportation related planning, including a focus on improving bus systems, in urban areas.





Resources

National Center for Safe Routes to School

SafeRoutes

<http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/>

National Center for Mobility Management

Transportation Strategies to Connect Youth With Summer Food Programs

<http://nationalcenterformobilitymanagement.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/FNS-Transport-Final-.pdf>

New York State Department of Transportation

Safety First for Kids

<https://www.dot.ny.gov/programs/safetyfirstkids/bikesafety>

Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center

Community Support

http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/community/Organize_coalitions.cfm

Share Our Strength

Innovative Logistics for Summer Meals

<http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/events/2015/february/26/innovative-logistics-summer-meals>

Texas Department of Transportation

Publications for Kids

<http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/forms-publications/publications/for-kids.html>

For Additional Information

Review these ideas and adopt the strategies that seem reasonable to you and achievable for your Program. Do you have more questions? Sponsors and the general public should contact their State agency for answers. State agencies should contact their FNS Regional Office.

List of FNS Regional Offices: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns-regional-offices>

List of State Agencies: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/sfsp-contacts>

USDA and its recipient institutions share responsibility for compliance and oversight to ensure good stewardship of Federal funds.



