



Sample Letters School Food Service Directors

Dear [School Food Service Director's Name]:

We are writing to urge you to champion an important issue affecting children in your community. Childhood food insecurity in the summertime remains at unacceptable levels across the country and children are most acutely at risk during the summer, when they do not have access to school meals.

As a school food service director, you understand the importance of children receiving nutritious meals. Your leadership helps ensure that the children you feed during the school year do not go hungry in the summer. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) operates Summer Meal Programs to address this problem and we are requesting your help to make access to and participation in Summer Meals a priority.

The Summer Meal Programs include the Summer Food Service Program as well as the Seamless Summer Option in the National School Lunch Program. These programs operate as a partnership between the Federal government, State agencies, and local organizations to serve free meals to kids age 18 years and younger. USDA provides reimbursement for meals, State agencies administer the Program, and local organizations, including schools, non-profit organizations, parks and recreation departments, libraries, and faith-based groups serve the meals.

In 2015, about 3.8 million children received Summer Meals – far fewer than the 21 million children who receive free or reduced price lunches through the National School Lunch Program during the school year. This means that during the summer we are not reaching the vast majority of children who rely on school meals to meet their nutritional needs.

You can help change this by encouraging eligible schools in your district to provide children in your community with Summer Meals at your school this summer. Local schools are the best sites for Summer Meals. Children and parents are familiar with local schools and schools are known for providing nutritious food in a safe environment. Even if your school will not be offering summer programming, it can serve as a Summer Meal site and fill the nutrition gap for your students this summer so that they are ready to learn when they return to school.



10/31/16



Your food service program also may be able to provide meals to other summer sites as a vendor. You are uniquely qualified to provide Summer Meals to other sites in your community. Please consider working with local organizations to provide meals to the children in your school district.

These programs need champions. Please help us feed more children in your community when school is not in session by being a champion for Summer Meals. Thank you, as always, for your dedication and commitment to our children.

Sincerely,

