



Social Media

How can we get the word out about Summer Meals? USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) counts on States, partners, and local organizations to help raise awareness, and it's good to know that social media offers even more ways to connect children with Summer Meal Programs. Social media makes it easy to reach out to parents, tap into community volunteerism, and promote Summer Meal sites and events.

Now it's your turn! Post information on your social media sites. Retweet information about Summer Meals from @USDANutrition. Here are ideas for you to try!

Sample Tweets

Individuals, schools & communities can help connect eligible children to summer meals <http://ow.ly/sQ4qT> #SummerFoodRocks

The @USDA Summer Food Service Program provides meals to children when school is out! <http://ow.ly/sQ4qT> #SummerFoodRocks

Children need healthy food all year long to flourish and achieve their highest ambitions! <http://ow.ly/sQ4qT> #SummerFoodRocks

When school is out, many low-income families who rely on school meals don't get the food they need <http://ow.ly/sQ4qT> #SummerFoodRocks

Summer meal sites are located in many communities across the US, especially in low-income areas <http://ow.ly/sQ4qT> #SummerFoodRocks

Sample Facebook Posts

Children need good nutrition all year long. When school is out during the summer months, many children no longer have access to even one nutritious meal each day. Summer Meal Programs help to fill the gap. Research shows a lack of nutrition during the summer months may set up a cycle for poor performance once school begins. We must do all we can to ensure that children get nutritious food during the summer months so that they are ready to learn during the school year.

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Summer Meals Toolkit

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USDA relies on local schools and organizations to sponsor Summer Meal Programs and operate sites. Individuals, schools and community organizations can help connect eligible to Summer Meals. Sites are located in many communities across the country, especially in low-income areas. To find a site near you, call 1-866-348-6479 (English) or 1-877-842-6273 (Spanish). You can also text FOOD (for English) or COMIDA (for Spanish) to 877-877 to find a meal site in your community.

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During the school year, more than 22 million children receive free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch through the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs. But what happens when school lets out? Summer Meal Programs are designed to make sure children can get the nutritious meals they need during the summer months so they're ready to learn when they return to school in the fall.

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Are you or your organization interested in helping us get the word out about Summer Meal? Then go to <http://www.summerfood.usda.gov>. USDA has flyers, bookmarks, postcards, and more, in both English and Spanish, to raise awareness and let families know about the availability of Summer Meals and how to find meal locations near them.

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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.

