



Sample Letters Tribal Leaders

Dear [Tribal Leader's Name]:

We are writing to urge you to champion an important issue affecting children in your community. Childhood food insecurity 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 leader, you have an important role in caring for children and helping them achieve and excel in school and in the tribal community. Your leadership can also help to ensure that children do not go hungry this summer. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) operates Summer Meal Programs to address this problem, and we are requesting your help to increase participation of Tribal organizations and make access to Summer Meals a priority for children in Tribal communities.

The Summer Meal Programs include the Summer Food Service Program as well as the Seamless Summer Option in the National School Lunch Program. USDA's Food and Nutrition Service National and Regional Office staff is ready to work closely with you to provide technical assistance, help identify and highlight best practices, and address barriers to participation. The goals of this targeted effort also include cultivating strong partnerships and working relationships, and ensuring that Tribal communities are supported at all levels.

We know that our Summer Meal Programs are not reaching the vast majority of children who rely on school meals to meet their nutritional needs. You can help change this by providing children with Summer Meals at schools and community sites this summer.

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. If you have any questions, please contact Kiev Randall, Program Analyst-Tribal Relations, at kiev.randall@fns.usda.gov or at 703-305-2828.

Sincerely,



10/31/16