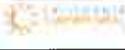


Bridging the Summer Gap:
Keeping Kids Healthy and Engaged When School is Out

USDA Summer Nutrition Programs

- USDA Summer Nutrition Programs = opportunity to stop gap left by school's summer closure
 - Free, healthy meals for kids 0-18 in low-income neighborhoods
- Sponsors act as fiscal/administrative agent: besides summer school, where can include churches, parks, schools, Boys & Girls Clubs, libraries, WIC, migrant camps...many options!



- Need for free/reduced-price (FRP) lunch does not disappear in summer
- Food insecurity associated with developmental, cognitive, behavioral and physical issues
- Harder for low-income families to make ends meet in summer
- In CA, only 17% of those receiving FRP lunch participated in a summer meal program:
 - Programming and site safety are key to attracting kids
 - Loss of summer school=loss of summer meal sites

Making the connection between summer + school year

Sources: California Food Policy Advocates, 2013; Leadership for Healthy Communities, 2012; Texas Hunger Initiative, 2012

- Lack of access to healthy food and safe places to play also increases risk of childhood obesity
- Kids may gain weight 2-3x faster during the summer than during the school year
- Lack of emphasis on nutrition during the summer can undermine nutrition promotion efforts during the school year
- Low-income kids may experience greater summer learning loss than more affluent peers
 - Loss in grade level math AND reading skills
 - 6 weeks = \$1,500 per student re-teaching

(Sources: National Summer Learning Association, 2012; Summer Matters, 2013)

Making the connection between academics + health

Focus on California

- California becomes one of five target states in 2013
 - Goal: Increase participation by 10%
 - Actual: 8% increase
- Site visits and partner meetings in Southern CA
- Support continues in 2014; new states selected
- President Obama visits Fresno; highlights need for summer meals in drought-affected areas



Community kick-off

- Hosted kick-off event at the Sacramento Public Library in conjunction with USDA Summer Meals Awareness Week
 - Leaders from USDA, CDE, CA State Library, Elk Grove USD, Sacramento Public Library
 - Nutrition education activities
 - Free farmers market
 - Resources for families
 - Storytime
 - Summer reading signups
 - Visits with fire and police
 - Face painting, activities
 - Info about Affordable Care Act



Lunch @ the Library

- Collaboration with California Library Association to partner summer meal providers and public libraries
 - Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission + Fresno Public Library
 - Feeding America San Diego + San Diego County Library
 - Elk Grove USD + Sacramento Public Library
 - Los Angeles Regional Food Bank + Los Angeles Public Library
- Modeled on partnership between Oakland Public Library, the City of Oakland, and the Alameda County Food Bank
- Support provided by David and Lucile Packard Foundation



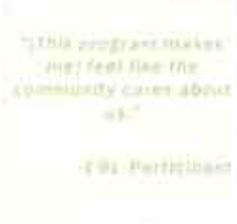

Program Impact

- Libraries were successful summer meal sites:
 - Served 13,348 lunches and 432 snacks
 - Expanding to more branches in 2014
 - Developing intentional programming
 - Working on national expansion
- Increase in summer reading sign-ups and library card issuance
- New families visiting the library
- A shift in library behavior



Bonus Points

- Storytelling, writing workshops, nutrition classes, container gardening, soccer, ping pong, and Zumba!
- Became a youth development program through the recruitment and support of teen volunteers
 - Teens developed job skills
 - Brought in friends
- Strong support from leadership
 - Increased visibility of collaboration among decision-makers
- Staff engagement




Additional resources

- Summerfood.usda.gov
 - Webinars
 - Toolkits
 - Policy memos – please share!
- Summermealcoalition.org
 - Newsletter / case studies
 - Nutrition ed. connections
- **Download Range app**
 - Windows phone store
 - Google Play
 - App Store (coming soon)
- CA Dept. of Education



For more information

California Summer Meal Coalition
A statewide network representing:

- School districts
- Expanded learning
- Food policy / Anti-hunger
- Youth development
- Nutrition / physical activity / obesity prevention
- Community-based organizations
- CA Dept. of Education, NEOP

www.summermealcoalition.org

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