



Child Nutrition & Wellness

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*Sent by listserv to SFSP Sponsors and posted at www.kn-eat.org,
Summer Food Service Program, What's New*

Summer Food Service Program Numbers

The 2017 Kansas Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is off to a great start! As of June 14, 170 sponsors and 667 sites have been approved to operate. Four more Kansas counties now have meal service sites: Chase, Decatur, Sherman and Wallace. There are now only 15 counties in Kansas without a meal service site.

Summer Food Service Program Kickoff Events

Kansas Summer Food Service Program sites kicked off 2017 by hosting a variety of events.

- **Iola:** Unified School District 257 hosted its kickoff Friday, June 2, at Riverside Park. The school also introduced a new way to offer better access to meals this summer. "MARV," the Meals and Reading Vehicle, is a remodeled school bus that can transport meals to underserved neighborhoods of Iola and to neighboring towns, such as Gas and LaHarpe, in order to increase program participation. Iola has several stationary sites in the city, including the Iola Pool, and hosts themed "Fun Friday" events at the sites.
- **Topeka:** Families gathered Saturday, June 3, at Central Park for the Refuel Topeka Kickoff Party and were joined by Topeka Police Department, Topeka Fire Department and Topeka Metro. Children played games while parents were provided information about the Topeka meal sites.
- **Parsons:** The Parsons Future Business Coalition sponsored a Kids Fishing Derby on Saturday, June 3. The derby was followed by a "Day of Play" with 25 activity stations led by the Parsons Recreation Commission. Children received a free breakfast and lunch.

Lunch Across Kansas – Keeping the SFSP Momentum Going!

Kick-off events set the stage for summer, but it's important to keep that momentum going! Keeping the community engaged and coming back to sites week after week is essential to summer success. Having "Spike Events", similar to kick-off events, to re-engage the community and remind families of the importance and availability of summer meals can ensure that you reach all the children in your community in need of healthy meals! **July 2017 has been designated Lunch Across Kansas. That's right – a whole month devoted to promoting the Summer Food Service Program!** Make sure that your program participates in Lunch Across Kansas (LAK). This summer a goal of providing meals and snacks to 500,000 Kansas kids during the month of July has been set! Historically, site attendance drops off after July 4. Take advantage of community events surrounding Independence Day and make a plug for summer meals at parades and neighborhood BBQs! **National Summer Learning Day is July 13** and provides an ideal opportunity to partner with libraries, schools, and community organizations to incorporate fun learning opportunities into the Summer Food Service Program.

Sign up to participate in Lunch Across Kansas at: <http://www.kansaskidstable.org/how-to-participate.html>. Participants will be featured on the Kansas Kids Table website and in a weekly Lunch Across Kansas newsletter, highlighting best practices and providing ideas to sponsors across the state. Kansas Appleseed would also love to visit your site to see first-hand what Kansas sponsors are doing to engage kids in the Summer Food Service Program! Contact Christina Ostmeyer for more information or for questions at Kansas Appleseed at costmeyer@kansasappleseed.org. Make plans now to promote your Summer Food Service Program during July for Lunch Across Kansas!

Summer Food Service Program Spotlight – Kansas Food Bank

The Kansas Food Bank received a grant from Feeding America for \$20,000 to help with outreach, incentives and expansion. Kansas Food Bank is using the grant money to cover the cost of four VISTA workers this summer. The Vistas assist with monitoring and site visits. One Vista is located in Ulysses and runs the mobile site at Bedrock Mobile Home Park. Funds were also used to mail outreach postcards to every residential address in all communities that Kansas Food Bank sites are located in. The back of the postcard lists the meal site(s) in the residences community. Debi Kreutzman, Community Relations Manager, explains that this was done to inform households with children about the program, to inform the community as a whole about the Kansas Food Bank partnership in their community and to inform households who may not have kids living there, but may have grandkids that visit. The grant also allows the purchase of incentives. Every day that a child eats, they are eligible to enter the drawing. At the end of the program each site will draw a winner. The lucky winner will receive a bike and helmet purchased specifically for them. And finally, grant funds were also used to cover the expense of new yard signs for each site. Feeding America facilitated the grant for their member food banks. There were 79 applicants and 25 awards. Feeding America will be coming to Oberlin to celebrate the Kansas Food Bank expansion of rural sites and partnerships on July 18.

Resources

USDA Summer Food Service Program Site Supervisor's Guide is now available at

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/handbooks>.

Resources from The Shawnee County Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

- *2017 SFSP 2017 Activity Guide* assists SFSP sites with implementing simple and low cost activities to promote literacy and physical health at summer meal sites.
- *Summer 2017 Parent Resource Guide* includes a calendar of activities, tips, and programs in the community to help keep children active, engaged and healthy during the summer.

For copies of these resources, email Jillian Fisher at Jillian.Fisher@UnitedWayTopeka.org.

Plan Now for Summer 2018

AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region is requesting proposals for team-based, community service projects for the 2017-2018 service year. Teams are available to support community and faith-based organizations, nonprofits, schools, local municipalities, federal and state entities and Tribal Programs. AmeriCorps teams can provide project support in the areas of youth development, food security, build and construction projects, natural and other disasters, environmental stewardship and more!

For Summer 2018: Round 3 Service Dates: April 7-July 7, 2018;

Concept Form Due: December 19, 2017; Full Application Due: January 30, 2018

If you have questions about developing a service project, would like to brainstorm service ideas, or want to get started on the application process, contact Crystal Kelly at crkelley@cns.gov.

SFSP Reimbursement Claim Submission Deadlines

- May claim by 7/30/17
- June claim by 8/29/17

“One More” Year of Success!

Once again we have topped projections for sponsors, sites and new counties operating SFSP sites – thank you for pledging “One More” to reach out to new communities, new neighborhoods, new organizations, and new partners! The Summer Food Service Program is looking bright for 2017 and is sure to be another record breaking summer!

Kelly, Cheryl and Mark