



# Summer Meals Newsletter

JANUARY 2016

WHILE MOST ARE SETTLING IN FOR WINTER, WE KNOW YOU'RE ALL HARD AT WORK GEARING UP FOR SUMMER!

## What's New?

### Summer Meals Toolkit

[www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-meals-toolkit](http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-meals-toolkit)

The toolkit has been updated throughout the year to reflect the new best practices FNS collects from State agencies, partners, and sponsors throughout the country.

### Look out for these Announcements :

**2016 Handbooks** - FNS will publish brand-new formatted handbooks this month.

[www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/handbooks](http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/handbooks)

**2016 SFSP Reimbursement Rates Notice**—

Publishes this month! [www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp-reimbursement-rates](http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp-reimbursement-rates)

## Upcoming USDA and Partner Events

**January 7th, 1:00 pm EST**

*Food Research, & Action Center (FRAC):  
Serving Meals at Farmers Markets and  
Incorporating Local Produce into Your  
Summer Meal Program*

[http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5118/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event\\_KEY=80389](http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5118/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=80389)

**Save the date: February 4th,  
1:00pm EST**

*Food, Research, & Action Center (FRAC):  
Partnerships to Expand your Summer  
Outreach Efforts*

<http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5118/p/salsa/event/common/public/>

---

## Resources for Sponsors

To help with planning for Summer, FNS has the following resources available to sponsors:

### Budgeting for Success

Understanding the financial side of SFSP is key to success. Check out this toolkit page for tips on how to establish priorities, make sound financial decisions, and control expenses throughout the summer months. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sfsp/SMT-Budgets.pdf>



### Targeting Expansion Efforts

This toolkit page provides tips on how to effectively target expansion and create strategies for increasing participation.

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/sfsp/SMT-Expansion.pdf>

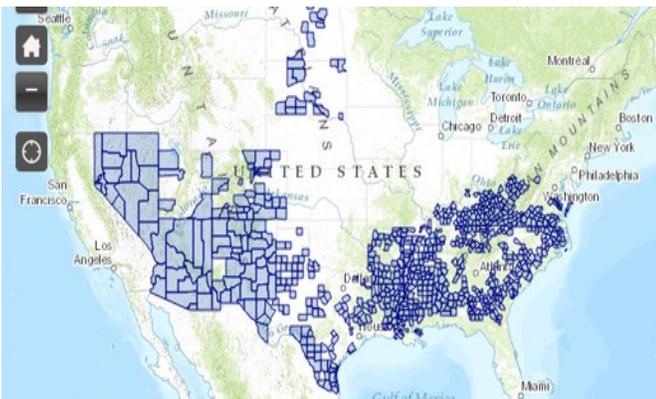
# Proactive Planning—What to do this month

It might be cold outside, but winter is the perfect time to start planning ahead for summer! Below are some tips for what sponsors can do this month to start working towards summer goals:

- Review unserved and underserved areas near current sites.
- Recruit sites to these areas of need.
- Compare participation from this year to that of prior years, as well as current participation for free and reduced-price meals in local schools.
- Reach out to sites that were underutilized and offer support to increase participation for the coming year.
- Consider providing nonmonetary awards to recognize sites that excelled during the summer.
- Set participation goals for the year and plan how you will accomplish them.
- Determine which sites are returning, explore new site options, and meet with community partners.
- Reach out to new and existing partners in your community for help.
- Plan site staff training schedule, meal production and delivery, and programs and activities.



**Summer Planning Tip:** Use the Capacity Builder to help plan to reach unserved and underserved areas



The FNS Capacity builder allows sponsors to target areas in their community that are currently unserved or underserved during the summer months. Users can search for summer meal sites from the previous summer by zip code, adding “layers” of information, such as free and reduced-price lunch participation rates or area eligibility data. Potential site locations (multi-family housing units, libraries, museums, and schools) can be added to the map, and previous site locations can also be highlighted, helping to prevent site overlap. This tool can also be

used to identify locations that are area eligible for participation in other Child Nutrition Programs. For more information on how to use the Capacity Builder, check out the *Summer Meal Capacity Builder Demonstration Webcast*: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbPDT\\_7xpSo&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbPDT_7xpSo&feature=youtu.be)