

SUMMER MEALS & PUBLIC LIBRARIES

A Partnership Feeding Young Minds & Bodies Across Kentucky



AGENDA

- The Summer Meal Gap for Kentucky Kids
- Introduction to SUN Meals & SUN Meals to Go (Summer Food Service Program)
- Spotlight on Local Partnerships between Summer Meals & Public Libraries in
 - Henry County
 - Lawrence County
 - Russell County
- Next Steps for Public Libraries Interested Summer Meal Partnerships

WEBINAR PANELISTS



Suzanne Banta
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John Cain
Feeding Kentucky
No Kid Hungry Kentucky



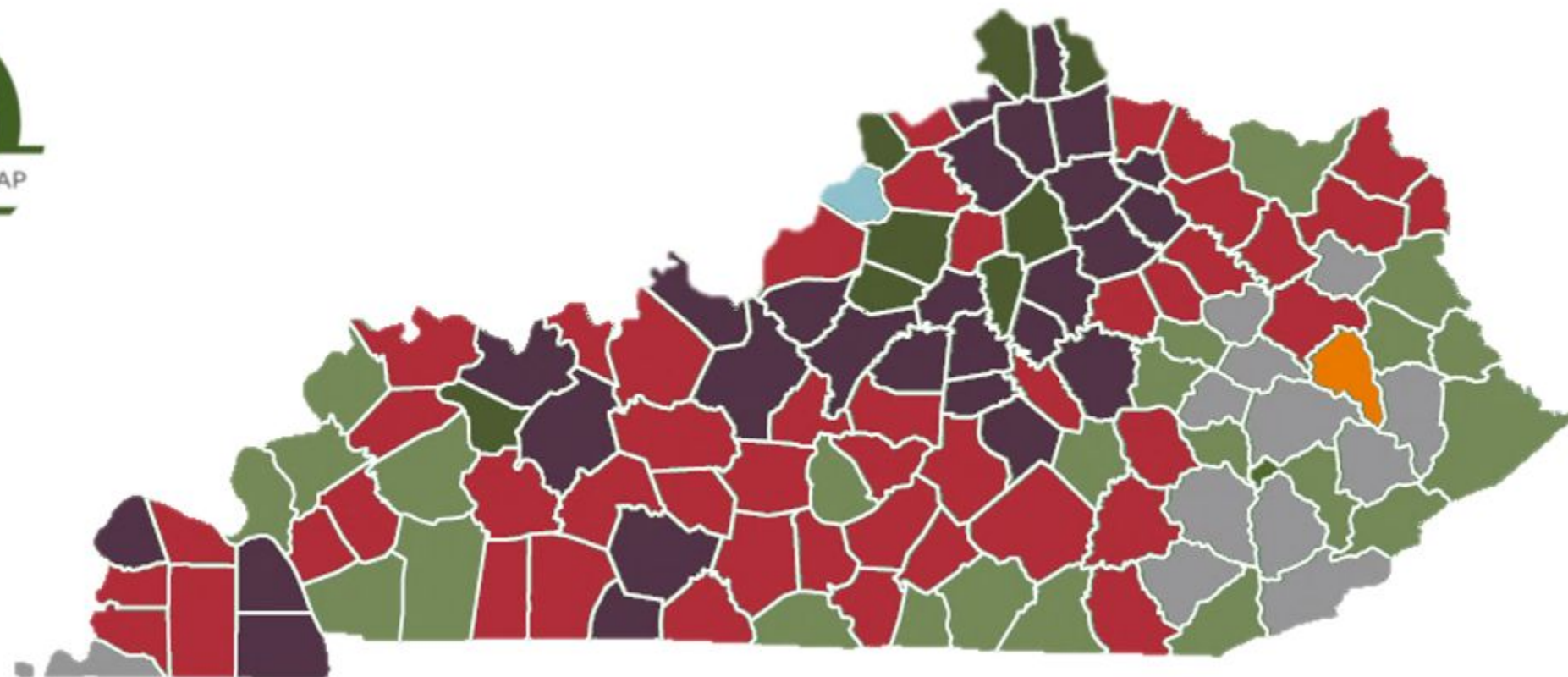
NO CHILD SHOULD GROW UP HUNGRY

In 2022, nearly **209,000 – OR – 1 IN 5 KY KIDS** experienced food insecurity, defined as a **LACK OF ACCESS TO ENOUGH FOOD** at times for an active, healthy life.

While all Kentucky counties are home to food insecure kids, child food insecurity impacts each county differently.



2022



Child Food Insecurity Rate

<10%

10.1 – 15.0%

15.1 – 20.0%

20.1 – 25.0%

25.1 – 30.0%

30.1 – 35.0%

>35%



365 DAYS OF SERVICE WITH CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Child Nutrition Programs Play A Vital Role In Keeping Food Insecure
Kids From Going Hungry

During the School Year



568,000 Kentucky kids are eligible for free & reduced-price school meals

During Summer Break

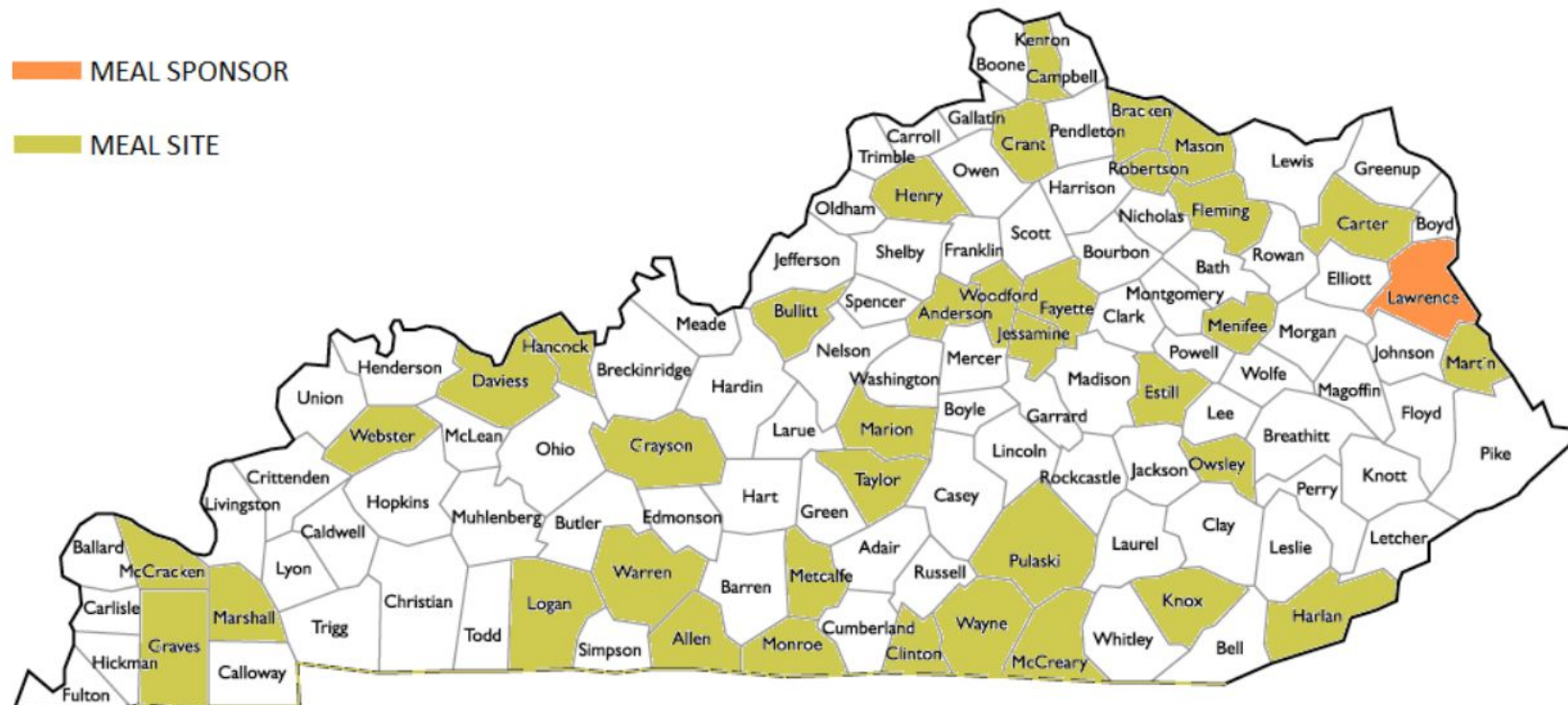


Despite over 8.1 million meals in 2024, summer meals reached an estimated 18% of KY Kids eligible for F/R priced school meals

Summer is the hungriest time of the year for Kentucky kids

Kentucky's public libraries are playing a critical role in keeping summer from being the hungriest time of year for kids.

KY COUNTIES WITH PUBLIC LIBRARIES PROVIDING SUMMER MEALS -2023



What is the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)?

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a USDA Summer Nutrition Program that was established to ensure that children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session. SFSP connects children with the nutrition they need to help them be healthy and ready to learn when they return to school. Free meals that meet federal nutrition guidelines are provided to all eligible children at approved SFSP meal sites.

Sponsors and Sites

- A **Sponsor** is a participating organization that is trained, submits an application, and receives federal reimbursement
- A **Site** means the place where a child receives a program meal. A site may be the indoor or outdoor location where congregate meals are served, a stop on a delivery route of a mobile congregate meal service, or the distribution location or route for a non-congregate meal service.

Determine whether you are eligible under SFSP

- Go to the USDA's Area Eligibility Map: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/area-eligibility>
- Your local sponsor/sponsoring organization will be checking this and they can help!
- Meal sites must be in areas of low-income

Determine if your area is already well-served by SFSP sites

- Go to the USDA's Capacity Builder Map to identify existing sites: www.fns.usda.gov/capacitybuilder
- Check with your local sponsoring organization, or
- Contact KDE SFSP for assistance
- New meal sites will be approved if there is a demonstrated need

Rural, Non-Congregate Meals

- In rural designated areas, meals may be provided as Grab and Go
- Meals may be provided to parents or guardians
- Meals may be provided for multiple days

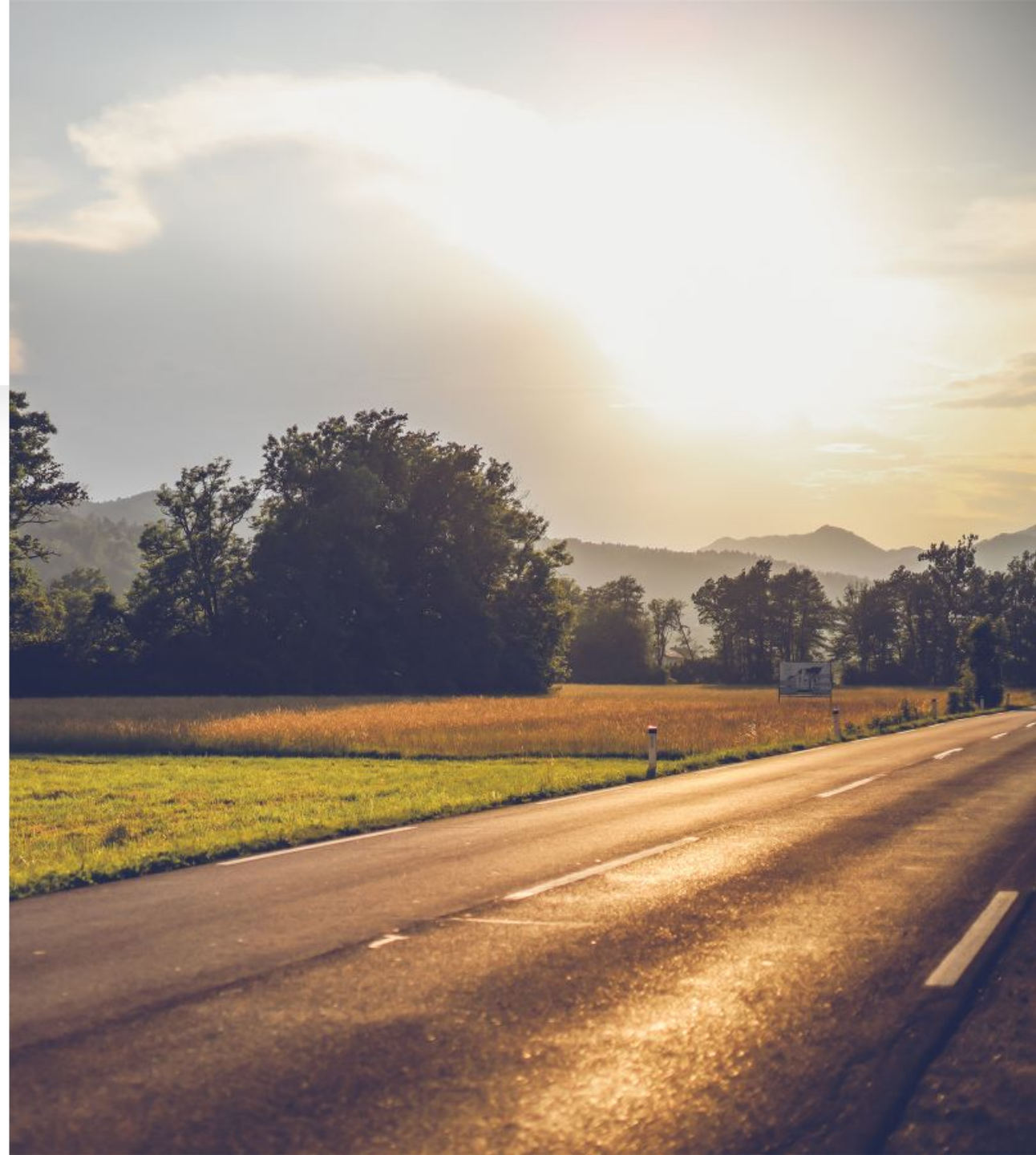


**No-cost meals for kids, for
pick-up or delivery. Let's eat!**

SUN 
MEALS TO-GO

Not in a Rural Area?

- Congregate meals allow for enrichment activities
- Children still need meals in low-income neighborhoods
- The library is a safe and trusted space for summer meals!



SFSP Can Work with Your Library's Needs!

- Ex: receive lunch M-F all summer, or
- Receive lunch M, W, F, or
- Receive a supper for a special event.
- Up to two meals, any combination except lunch + supper



Henry County Summer Meals

HCPS Food Service Director : Anna Lusk
HCPS Youth Services Librarian: Suzanne Banta



What does meal service look like?

Monday- Friday 12 PM- 12:45PM

Location: Activity Room

6 Weeks

Wrap Around Service

Diverse Age Group

2,364 Meals Served Summer of 2024



Activities at the

Library

Summer Meal Kick-Off

Parking Lot Projects

Friday Freebies

Plan Meal Time Around Story Hour

Special Guest- Dress up Characters

Book Giveaways

Reptile Zoo

Community Comfort Cabinet



How we got started?



- 2020- Drive Thru Meal Pick-Up
- 2021- Congregate Feeding
- 2022-2024- Non Congregate Meal Service
- 2025- Non-Congregate Meal Service + Adding Weekends



The whys







We encourage you to partner
with your local library or school
system to offer children a healthy
meal in a happy healthy
environment!



Thank You!



Deanna Farris

Director

Lawrence County Public Library



We are a little different....

- We are a small rural public library that services a county of 16,000
- We have a total staff of 9. (5 full time and 4 part time)
- We served 30,806 hot meals and gave out 26,723 take home food bags in 174 days. (3 summers of serving)
- We serve hot meals for 1 to 2 hours a day on week days.
- Weekend food bags and week long food bags are distributed thought out our county.



Why We Decided to Take on a Non Traditional Library Roll in the Community

- No one was doing a summer feeding program in our county.
- We had a library full of kids that came for our programs daily.
- We had a local restaurant that did catering and had already worked with our local private schools.
- We thought why not work together and Boom the program took off.



Our Goals

1. To provide a safe place for children to spend their summer days.
2. Enable families with children to stay all day at the library and not have to worry about food.
3. To provide every child that wants one a hot meal daily. We later added weekend food bags.



• Caption

Who pays for what.

Hot Meals: SFSP or Sun Meals pays for the hot meals we serve. We are billed monthly by our vender and we are reimbursed for payment by SFSP.

Weekend Bags: The library sets aside money in the annual budget to fund the food bags we send home on weekends.



Community Partnerships and Increasing Stats OHHH MY.....

- Doing a summer food program has strengthened many community partnerships we have and has helped form new ones.
- The vender we use for hot meals is a locally owned restaurant that has been in business since 1954.
- Our program stats continue to grow every summer since the addition of the SFSP.
- We are on a first name basis with our local Sams club.





**RUSSELL COUNTY
SCHOOL NUTRITION**

**RUSSELL COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY**



Highlights:

- Russell County served 128,903 meals during the summer of 2024 (June and July).
- Russell County Schools teamed up with Russell County Family Resource Centers and the Russell County Public Library to make this a success for children in the community.
- We served non-congregate meals at 4 different sites around the county.



Getting Started:

- 2024 was our first year for SFSP.
- FRYSC reached out to RC Director of School Nutrition for help supporting the food insecurity needs of children in our community. Together, we put together a plan to address those insecurities.
- It takes lots of planning and there are lots of moving parts but it is worth it!



Russell County Public Library as a Partner

- Kristina Burton from the RCPL reached out to see how they could partner with RC Schools in serving meals during the summer months.
- RCPL became a site and served approximately 150 meals each week.
- RCPL picked up their meals at one of the elementary schools each week. We used a district box truck to transport the meals.



Russell County Public Library as a Partner

- RCPL was a favorite place for some families to pick up their summer meals. The smiling faces of the library drew them right in.
- This partnership allowed the library to promote summer reading while at the same time addressing food insecurities among families.
- RCPL completed all necessary documentation each week and submitted it. Kristina was trained as a site supervisor for the RCPL.



Russell County Public Library as a Partner

- Community partnerships are encouraged.
 - Libraries—reach out to your schools!
 - Schools—reach out to your libraries!
- Access to basic human needs is essential to learning and literacy.
 - Providing access to food allows our community to Read, Create, Play, and Learn!



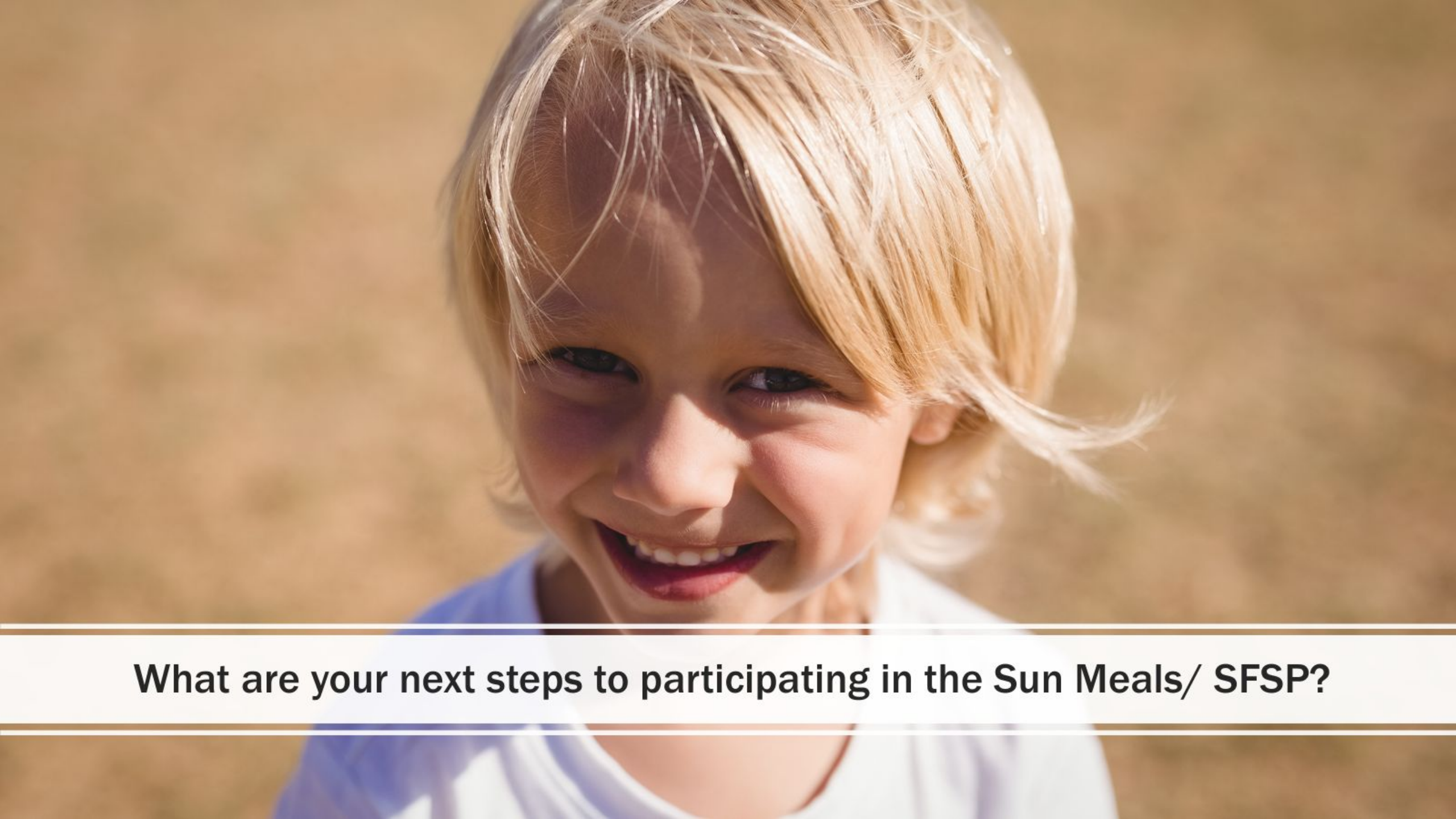
Tips on Getting Started:

- Create a plan.
 - Where? How?
- Create a team.
- Create a schedule.
- Make modifications.
- Execute!



SUN MEALS TO-GO





What are your next steps to participating in the Sun Meals/ SFSP?

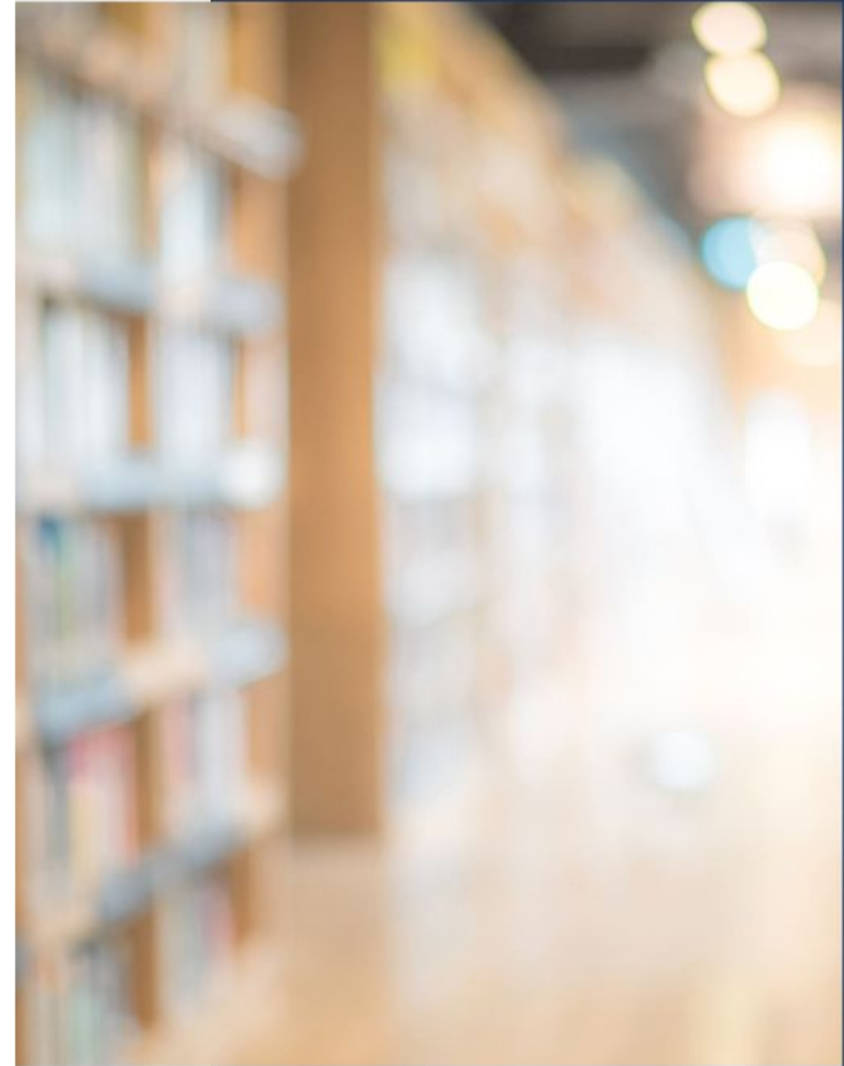
What do you need to be a site?

- Staff and/or volunteers to serve meals and supervise.
- A designated space (inside or outside!) for kids and teens to eat
- Plenty of trash cans and a cleaning kit for small spills
- A Summer Food Service Program sponsor (a sponsor is responsible for the financial, administrative, and food procurement aspects of the programs)
- An offered activity or enrichment component like worksheets, story-time, or games (kids and teens are not required to participate in order to receive a meal or snack)
- An open mind and attitude and a willingness to try – sometimes the program takes a few iterations to find the right fit!



What don't you need?

- Libraries do not need to buy or prepare food.
- Libraries do not have much paperwork to complete. The majority of the paperwork is **the** responsibility of sponsors.
- Libraries do not need a lot of storage space for food. Many sponsors are able to deliver meals daily. However, libraries with storage space may opt for less frequent deliveries.
- Libraries do not need a kitchen to run the programs. Most sponsors provide equipment (e.g. coolers, ice packs, etc.) that a library may not have in order to serve cold meals. Many sponsors also offer shelf-stable meal options...no refrigeration necessary!
- Libraries do not need to register students for the meal program. They can serve any kid or teen that would like a meal!



How do I find a sponsor?

- Contact your local school district Child Nutrition or Food Service Director when in doubt!
- Contact KDE Summer Food Service Program staff
- Or....become a sponsor! Ex. Lawrence County Public Library



Become a Sponsor!

Why?

You can possibly add sites and reach more children

Receive reimbursement for meals

Possibly increase grant opportunities?

How?

Contact the State agency for initial forms/steps

Attend SFSP training

Arrange for meals

Train staff

Provide meals and submit claim



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

Planning for a Successful Summer: Creating an inviting space

- The ideal location for food service can vary, and may include a community room, a library café, or a nearby park. Ideally, the space will be accessible and easy to find. Consider your expected participation rate when selecting a location, and search for a space where you will not have capacity issues.
- If grab-and-go is an option for you, use signage and décor to lead patrons to your pick-up location. Make it easily accessible by car, bike, and foot, and safe for patrons who walk or bike to your site.
- Translate program rules into families' primary languages, taking into account potential issues of limited literacy. *
- Use multiple methods to communicate the short list of program rules. *
- Table toppers with basic program rules alleviate some of the burden on library staff of continually reminding families about the rules. *
- Get involved in the experience by encouraging children to try new foods. When possible, sit with children during meals, and using positive phrasing to promote healthy eating.



QUESTIONS?

Planning for a Successful Summer: Food for Adults

- Note that food provided by SFSP may not be consumed by parents or caregivers unless they themselves are 18 or under.
- Meals may be provided, if the sponsor allows, as long as they are paid for.
- Create a handout that lists local free food programs available to adults. Distribute it during meal/snack times.
- Work with local food banks or Farmer's Markets to provide food boxes to parents or information about Double Dollars, etc.

THANK
YOU!


FEEDING[®]
KENTUCKY