

What Librarians Are Saying

...this is one of the best services our library provides to the public, and we are so happy that we can help enrich both the minds and the bodies of children in our county.

Jennifer Slone, Public Services Coordinator, Garnet A. Wilson Public Library of Pike County

We're providing the Summer Lunch and Snacks at many of our branches in the hopes that well fed tummies can lead to well fed minds... It's a simple task really, providing a lunch through the summer as a supplement to our programming, and one that allows us to solidify our place in the community.

Rochelle LeMaster, Youth Services Program Leader, Columbus Metropolitan Library

Everyone involved is so excited to be a part of this program... All of my apprehension was for nothing! I should have started this years ago!

Katie Cooley Holahan, Youth Services Supervisor, Grafton-Midview Public Library

It is the perfect venue to connect low income families and literacy programs in the library.

Adele Infante, Director, Grafton-Midview Public Library

For us, it has been very rewarding to bring our summer reading program to kids who otherwise may not have access to our services.

Becky Schaade, Coordinator of Library Services, Fairfield County District Library



The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Ending Child Hunger at your library

with the USDA Summer Food Service Program

The USDA works with states and community sponsors to provide summer meals for children in communities with high rates of poverty. As many as 90% of **kids who depend on free or reduced price school meals go hungry** during the long weeks of summer. By participating in the SFSP, public libraries can play an important role in combatting child hunger in Ohio.

Why Libraries?



Children are going hungry in your community. Nationwide, one in six children who receive free and reduced price school meals goes hungry during the summer. In Ohio, **over 21% of children suffer from poverty and food insecurity**, and only a small fraction of eligible children receive food through the SFSP (<http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/oh.pdf>).



There is funding available to feed them. Participating sponsors are reimbursed the cost of providing this valuable service. In some of the counties suffering the greatest economic hardship no one is utilizing these funds and **no one is stepping up to feed hungry kids.**



It really is simple. Libraries don't need to prepare food, design or adapt new or unwieldy programs. **Initial involvement in the program is easy**, often requiring no more than contacting a sponsor.



It aligns with the mission of the public library. Summer reading programs have long been a pillar of library literacy programming for young patrons. **Hungry kids don't read.** They can become trapped in a cycle of poor school performance and ill health that can have lifelong literacy and learning consequences.

Get Started!

library.ohio.gov/summer-food

Visit the State Library website to learn more about the SFSP, how your library can become a sponsor or site, and other ways to support SFSP and the well-being of children in your community. **For more information contact** Janet Ingraham Dwyer, Library Consultant at 614-644-6910 or jdwyer@library.ohio.gov.



Sample of customizable promotional materials

A Smarter Ohio

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