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USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP): Project Summary Report

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USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
Project Summary Report
Spring 2019

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**Project 1:** Which rural school districts have the highest need for summer meals but limited participation in the USDA Summer Food Service Program?

**Method**

To answer this research question we used Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) participation and Free and Reduced Price Meals (F&RM) eligibility data from the Iowa Department of Education to visualize the school district need and participation.

School district need was operationalized using 2016-2017 F&RM eligibility data from the Iowa Department of Education. Specifically, we used the percent eligible in the school district to identify high-need school districts (those with 50% or higher of students eligible for F&RM). All school districts with less than 50% of students eligible for F&RM were categorized as low-need.

To determine school districts with no SFSP sites, a list of sites including addresses for open and closed sites was obtained from the Iowa Department of Education (n = 411). We excluded closed sites because the general population of students would not be able to access these. The remaining open sites (n = 364) were mapped using the Texas A&M Geocoder (http://geoservices.tamu.edu/Services/Geocode).

**Data Analysis Procedures**

Using ARCMap, we created a choropleth map of the percent of students eligible for the F&RM program, which revealed visual patterns in the distribution of F&RM eligibility by aggregating ranges of eligibility into categories, shaded by color, and defined by school district boundaries. Finally, the geocoded addresses were used as points data to identify the location of each open SFSP site in 2017. To further conceptualize high-need areas, we created a choropleth map that dichotomized school districts, where the school districts defined as high F&RM program eligibility (50% or higher) are visualized in teal (Figure 1). The locations for summer lunch sites was overlaid to visualize areas that were high need with no summer lunch sites.

**Figure 1:**

![Choropleth Map of F&RM Eligibility](image)

**Results**

The visualization of the data is in Figure 1. The map shows that most of the high-need school districts in the state had at least one SFSP site during the summer of 2017. However, there were some school districts that were both high-need with no Summer Food Service Program site. Table 1 lists the school districts with no Summer Food Service Program site (n = 14), the F&RM eligibility for the district in 2017, the school enrollment, and the counties which the school district overlaps with. The F&RM eligibility ranged from just over the minimum high-need threshold (51.4%) to a high percent of students eligible (82.9%). These mostly rural school districts had enrollments that ranged from 67 to 3,597 students.
Table 1. School districts in Iowa with high Summer Food Service Program need and no Summer Food Service Program sites (2017) (n = 14)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School District</th>
<th>% F&amp;RM</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Counties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Winneshiek</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>Winneshiek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-County</td>
<td>52.4</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>Keokuk, Poweshiek, Mahaska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert City-Truesdale</td>
<td>52.8</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>Buena Vista, Pocahontas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruthven-Ayrshire</td>
<td>52.8</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>Clay, Palo Alto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lenox</td>
<td>53.8</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>Taylor, Adams, Ringgold, Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moulton-Udell</td>
<td>55.0</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Appanoose, Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centerville</td>
<td>56.6</td>
<td>1,322</td>
<td>Appanoose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Dodge</td>
<td>59.4</td>
<td>3,597</td>
<td>Webster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarke</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>1,344</td>
<td>Clarke, Decatur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orient-Macksburg</td>
<td>60.1</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>Adair, Madison, Adams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olin</td>
<td>62.9</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiting</td>
<td>63.5</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Monona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lu Verne</td>
<td>70.2</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>Kossuth, Hancock, Humboldt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postville</td>
<td>82.9</td>
<td>695</td>
<td>Clayton, Fayette, Winneshiek, Allamakee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project 2: What are the barriers to high-need, rural school districts’ participation in the USDA Summer Food Service Program?

Method

Participant recruitment

Using the list of high-need school districts identified in project 1, we identified key stakeholders. After reviewing the initial comprehensive results, we narrowed down our target stakeholders to superintendents of school districts, food service directors, school board members, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, and church and food access organizations. We began contacting key stakeholders in February of 2018, by first sending out an email if possible. We used stratified sampling by setting a goal of three interviews per school district area. This goal was based on the belief that saturation could be reached from this number of interviews in each school district area and funding limitations. We also used snowball sampling to contact additional stakeholders by asking for referrals from stakeholders who either refused or completed the interview. This sampling strategy resulted in a total of 38 interviews completed with at least one interview completed in each of the 14 school district areas.

Interview Protocol

Interviews were completed over the phone with stakeholders over an eight week time period. Interviews were audio recorded and later transcribed. Stakeholders were offered compensation for participating in the interview.

Instrument

The full instrument is included in Appendix A. Stakeholders were asked to provide some detail about their background including their role in the community, engagement in civic organizations and volunteerism, and length of time living in the area. They were asked about their perceptions of the need for a SFSP in the school district area, specifically by defining the level of poverty and food insecurity in the area. Stakeholders were then asked to identify challenges and elements needed for SFSP sites in the school district area. Finally, the stakeholders were asked to identify what the Iowa Department of Education would need to do to help a start a SFSP site in the school district area.

Qualitative Data Analysis

Two members of the research team independently coded two transcripts using a codebook created by the research team. The research team members met and reconciled codes until agreement was reached. The remaining transcripts (n = 36) were coded by the research team members.

Results

The results of the interviews are listed below. For each, a brief description is provided of the theme followed by an exhaustive summarized list of stakeholder responses. Stakeholder views ranged greatly, and at times conflicted with what others said.

Stakeholder Background

Stakeholders had varying roles and levels of participation in their communities. Many of the stakeholders worked in not only the school districts of interest, but also the surrounding communities which resulted in a comprehensive understanding of the SFSP options in the area. There was a diversity of responses to the levels of community civic engagement and volunteerism that ranged from none to highly involved.

Summer Food Service Program Need

Stakeholders identified whether the school district area had a need for a SFSP site. Most said that there is a need for a SFSP site. Stakeholders were also asked where children are eating during the summer time without the resource of the F&RM program that is offered during the school year.
• Many stakeholders said they did not know
• Go without a meal
• Childcare provider
• Children are on their own to feed themselves
• Parents or other family members feed them
• Community organizations or churches provide meals

Current Feeding Programs in Area
Throughout the interviews, stakeholders described programs that existed within the school district area, or in neighboring school districts, that were aimed at improving child and/or family food access. These included:
• Backpack programs (during the school year only for most school districts)
• Neighboring school districts have SFSP sites—one school district offered busing to the neighboring site
• In one school district, there was a delivery service of meals to homes during the summer months
• Churches in the area do holiday meals
• In several school district areas, the local church occasionally served lunch during the summer months
• Food pantries are operating in the school district areas, with several in the school
• Food voucher program at one of the schools for the holidays
• Distribution of Feed the Children meals

Free and Reduced Price Meals Knowledge
Stakeholders were asked what they thought the F&RM rate was for the school district area. Responses included:
• Many of the stakeholders were able to give an exact percent. For those who did not, most gave a range which they believed the area fell within. Most said over 50% of students in the school district were eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals.
• In a few cases, stakeholders said the percent eligible was well under 50% or said that they simply did not know

Stakeholders were then asked what contribute to the F&RM being what it was. Stakeholders said:
• Attributes of the town itself (e.g., cheap housing) which attracts lower income families
• Lack of jobs in the area
• Mostly low wage jobs in the area
• People do not make enough money to meet their needs
• Families move into the school district area because rent is cheaper
• Families who are eligible do not necessarily complete the paperwork
• Some said it was due to personal choices of residents (e.g., choose not to work) or substance addiction problems
• Single parents and grandparents are raising children
• Generational poverty
• A lot of small farms in the area

Person in Poverty
Stakeholders provided a description of who they thought experienced poverty in the school district area. Some also included reasons why poverty was a problem in the area.
• Low income
• Minority population
• Low median incomes in the school district area
• Both parents working
• Neither parent is working
• Single parents
• Low wage jobs
• Cost of living (other expenses)
• Veterans
• Persons with disabilities
• Elderly
• Families with children
• Generational poverty
• Low educational attainment
• People using assistance programs
• Multiple families living in one home
• Large manufacturing employers in some towns have gone out of business impacting job availability

Person Experiencing Food Insecurity/Hunger

Stakeholders provided a description of who they thought experienced food insecurity or hunger in the school district area. Some also included reasons why food insecurity or hunger was a problem in the area. Most stakeholders said yes.

• For the few who said no the reasons included: (1) there are so many programs to help that people do not go hungry
• Middle working class families
• Single mothers
• People with low educational attainment
• Low income families
• Families with younger children
• Minorities
• Elderly
• Grandparents raising their grandchildren
• People who do not make enough money to meet their needs
• Some families do not qualify for programs but need them
• Some parents do not or are unable to take care of their children
• People have to pay their bills and make choices about buying food
• The rural area makes it difficult to access grocery stores
• The one community that had public transportation, was expensive to use
• Parents who cannot maintain employment due to health or addiction
• Parents who miss work because of transportation issues and are fired
• Parents who miss work to take care of their child and are fired
• Large manufacturing employers in some towns have gone out of business impacting job availability
• Some families new to the small town are not connected to a church and finds it difficult to get connected to resources
Knowledge of USDA Summer Food Service Programs in the School District

Stakeholders were asked if there was a Summer Food Service Program operating in the school district.

- Most people knew there was no current SFSP sites (open) in their communities
- Several people were unsure/did not know
- There was a closed site in one school district area that stakeholders were aware of
- Some stakeholders said they have engaged in discussions about getting a program started

When asked why there was no program in the school district area, stakeholders gave the following reasons:

- Difficult to sustain the program (money or volunteers)
- Past programming did not have adequate participation
- No one to take on the program (willingness or capacity)
- Could not find the staffing
- Concerns with participation because of transportation needs

Barriers for Summer Food Service Programs

Throughout the interviews, stakeholders identified barriers that would make it difficult to operate a SFSP site in the school district areas.

(1) Transportation or location

- Families living in rural areas (outside of the town) would have difficulty getting to a site in town
- Transportation is especially difficult for smaller children
- For parents who are able to transport children, it is not worth it to make a special trip into town for a meal during summer (cost outweighs the benefit) and/or would have to take off work to do so
- The school district cannot afford to pay for transportation
- The geography of the school district itself, where most of the area is rural. This means that there are few children located in one central area and most are dispersed across a large geographic area with low access to the school
- The actual location of the school within the community makes it difficult for children to safely walk or bike to the location
- For the school district with a public transportation option, it is not free which limits access to it
- If the site was located in a church that might be a barrier for students with different faiths
- If the school district itself is not willing to house it, it would be difficult for another organization to host it especially given the need for a commercial kitchen

(2) Staffing

- Getting food service staff to work during the summer is a challenge for some communities
- Food service staff get burnt out and need the summer break
- For some organizations, they are not sure if they could find the volunteers to run it, especially due to aging volunteers
- It would be difficult for a site to run on volunteers only
- Need staff to supervise the children attending, which is not something that there would be much money for
- People do not want to complete the training as that is official and makes them responsible

(3) Funding/Money

- Pay for food and staffing beyond what is paid for now (includes janitors and administrative costs)
• You only get reimbursed for the meals actually served which can be a challenge during summer to predict participation
• Problems with distributors and getting affordable prices during the summer

(4) Misc.

• Unknown participation and the difficulty that presents in planning meals and purchasing
• Stigma of using programming
• The geographic location of the community itself—children live in neighboring rural towns or open enroll, parents take children to daycare outside of the area
• Communicating with families about the program, especially would be a problem to reach families if it is not a school-based SFSP program
• Communicating about the program early enough to improve awareness (before the school year ends)
• Children might not want to come or they may be too busy doing other things
• Children might not want the meal, but would come for an activity and would throw away their meal
• Parents are apathetic about using programs
• Nutrition guidelines limit what can be offered
• Adults have to pay for meals
• The extra cost of running a summer program would hurt the program during the school year
• There are few leaders in the community making it difficult to find someone to lead the effort to start a program
• During the summer, school janitorial staff are doing major cleaning on the schools which would impact the ability to hold a summer program

Facilitators for Summer Food Service Programs
Throughout the interviews, stakeholders identified facilitators that are in place or components needed to be in place to contribute to the school district’s ability to operate a SFSP site.

(1) Transportation or location

• The school would be an ideal location due to the geographic location, has adequate space, is inclusive of all students, and has the equipment needed
• Some churches in the communities might have the space to accommodate a SFSP site
• Central location would be ideal
• Location that is safe and trusted for children to get to on their own
• Providing transportation in some form (e.g., bus)
• Use a mass pickup point for transportation
• Use of existing public transportation, if available
• Spread the meal sites out

(2) Staffing

• Paid staff would be better than relying on volunteers for cooking and serving food
• Volunteers might be able to monitor students while they eat
• Site could be staffed by volunteers
• Having a coordinator or champion is ideal
• Current food service staff or school staff would be willing to run a SFSP site
• Multiple stakeholders said there would be no problem getting volunteers from the community
(3) Funding/Money
  
  - Paying staff to cook and do cleanup

(4) Misc.
  
  - Provide a weekly meal package that is delivered once a week and prepared at home
  - Make sure that there is not duplication of services/programs offered
  - Use multiple methods of advertisement (e.g., posters and television ads)
  - When advertising offer menus so that parents are motivated to bring their children
  - Existing relationships between schools and parents help overcome barriers to participation (e.g., language)
  - Meals should be offered everyday
  - A flexible serving schedule with a two hours feeding window
  - When rolling out a new SFSP site, it might be beneficial to roll it out slowly by offering meals a few days a week
  - Use a mobile food truck to deliver meals
  - Add an activity component
  - Offer the meals for a few hours, not having rigid hours
  - Tight knit community makes sure the community gets what they need
  - Use of innovation to attract children to come
  - People who live in town will use the program
  - Offering a morning program would be best
  - Nutrition standards during the summer are easier to meet
  - USDA provides good advertising materials

(5) Community Members or Organizations—identified as possible contributors to a new program
  
  - Local churches
  - Ministerial association
  - Local food pantries
  - Local service clubs (such as Rotary and Lions Clubs)
  - Local organizations or programs
  - Retired or aging community members
  - ISU Extension Office
  - Teachers
  - Corporations and businesses
  - A few of the stakeholders said that there are either few people willing to volunteer or they did not know

Questions or needs from the IDOE
  
  Stakeholders were asked what the IDOE could do to help them start a site:
  
  - Help the person coordinating the site to get it started and running—this could include training
  - Provide information to get the site started
  - Funding—for food, staffing, or transportation needs
  - Examples of other sites including what they did and what worked well or even what did not work
  - Offer an additional small grant to pay for program coordination
Project 3: What is associated with successful implementation of the USDA Summer Food Service Program?

Method
To answer the research question an online survey was administered. The survey was sent to all contacts for SFSP sites across Iowa (n = 384). The email list was provided by the Iowa Department of Education. The list of sites included both rural and urban SFSP sites. A total of 378 emails to potential participants were sent a total of beginning mid July 2018.

Instrument
The full instrument is included in Appendix B. The survey first asked respondents to identify the site they acted as a site organizer for. Next, the respondent was asked to provide descriptive information about the SFSP site including the number of years the site has been at the current location and the number of years the respondent has organized the site. Next, the level of turnover of staff and volunteers was assessed, followed by contributions by group. Stakeholders were asked to identify facilitators and barriers to child participation. Lastly, the respondent was asked about their perception of programming meeting the needs of the community, potential for continued support and overall program success.

Data analysis
Descriptive statistics were calculated for quantitative data. For open response questions, responses were coded as appropriate.

Results
Results are presented below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Min, max</th>
<th>Mean (SD)</th>
<th>Median</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1. To the best of your knowledge, how many years has this summer feeding site been in operation at this location? (n=108)</td>
<td>1, 30</td>
<td>6.2 (5.9)</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2. How many years have you coordinated the summer feeding program for this site (not counting the summer of 2018)? (n=107)</td>
<td>1, 24</td>
<td>4.2 (4.0)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q3-4. Thinking back to the summer of 2017, how would you rate the level of turnover among summer food service [staff/volunteers]? Turnover meaning [staff/volunteers] quit during the summer or do not come back the following summer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>No to little turnover</th>
<th>Some turnover</th>
<th>High turnover</th>
<th>This is my first year coordinating this site/don’t know</th>
<th>There are no staff/no volunteers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff (n=111)</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>78.4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers (n=111)</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>39.6</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q5a. From the provided list below, which of the following local groups or persons contributed to this summer feeding site during the summer of 2017. Please identify all of the ways in which each group or persons contributed. (Check all that apply, n=111)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group/Person</th>
<th>This group does not contribute to this site</th>
<th>Donates money</th>
<th>Volunteers time by helping prepare</th>
<th>Volunteers time by providing activities</th>
<th>Attends meals or snacks with children</th>
<th>Provides transportation</th>
<th>Advertises or promotes</th>
<th>Advocates for this site</th>
<th>Provided assistance with forms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>38 34.2</td>
<td>1 0.9</td>
<td>10 9.0</td>
<td>7 6.3</td>
<td>58 52.3</td>
<td>26 23.4</td>
<td>13 11.7</td>
<td>16 14.4</td>
<td>4 3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community members</td>
<td>35 31.5</td>
<td>17 15.3</td>
<td>29 26.1</td>
<td>18 16.2</td>
<td>21 18.9</td>
<td>7 6.3</td>
<td>26 23.4</td>
<td>30 27.0</td>
<td>4 3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired community members</td>
<td>69 62.2</td>
<td>7 6.3</td>
<td>15 13.5</td>
<td>7 6.3</td>
<td>8 7.2</td>
<td>2 1.8</td>
<td>7 6.3</td>
<td>10 9.0</td>
<td>1 0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School staff and teachers</td>
<td>30 27.0</td>
<td>1 0.9</td>
<td>15 13.5</td>
<td>14 12.6</td>
<td>34 30.6</td>
<td>11 9.9</td>
<td>37 33.3</td>
<td>43 38.7</td>
<td>13 11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AmeriCorp or FoodCorp</td>
<td>86 77.5</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
<td>2 1.8</td>
<td>3 2.7</td>
<td>2 1.8</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
<td>2 1.8</td>
<td>3 2.7</td>
<td>1 0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In home daycare provider</td>
<td>36 32.4</td>
<td>1 0.9</td>
<td>2 1.8</td>
<td>2 1.8</td>
<td>54 48.7</td>
<td>22 19.8</td>
<td>10 9.0</td>
<td>12 10.8</td>
<td>1 0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churches</td>
<td>51 46.0</td>
<td>9 8.1</td>
<td>20 18.0</td>
<td>10 9.0</td>
<td>10 9.0</td>
<td>3 2.7</td>
<td>29 26.1</td>
<td>23 20.7</td>
<td>3 2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service groups</td>
<td>69 62.2</td>
<td>8 7.2</td>
<td>4 3.6</td>
<td>3 2.7</td>
<td>5 4.5</td>
<td>1 0.9</td>
<td>10 9.0</td>
<td>11 9.9</td>
<td>1 0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local businesses</td>
<td>53 47.8</td>
<td>11 9.9</td>
<td>8 7.2</td>
<td>6 5.4</td>
<td>3 2.7</td>
<td>1 0.9</td>
<td>24 21.6</td>
<td>18 16.2</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local organizations or groups</td>
<td>54 48.7</td>
<td>12 10.8</td>
<td>10 9.0</td>
<td>6 5.4</td>
<td>5 4.5</td>
<td>2 1.8</td>
<td>19 17.1</td>
<td>15 13.5</td>
<td>0 0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q5b. *For those who selected local organizations or groups:* If local organizations or groups contributed to the summer feeding site, please list the names of the local organizations or groups. (Open response; n=47)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth organizations</td>
<td>4H Iowa State Extension &amp; Outreach High school volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School Big Brothers Big Sisters Upward Bound Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churches &amp; religious organizations</td>
<td>Local churches Ministerial Alliance/Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Retreat Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local businesses</td>
<td>Daycare site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local radio station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governmental organizations</td>
<td>Public Library Chamber of Commerce AmeriCorps/21st Century Grant City/Municipality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parks and Recreation Police Department County Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-local businesses</td>
<td>Hy-Vee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fareway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Farm Credit Services of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United Health Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Renewable Energy Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Royal Neighbors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-governmental organizations</td>
<td>Kiwanis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rotary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lions Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Farm Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Retired Seniors Volunteer Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public Library Friends Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Giving Gardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social services</td>
<td>United Way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Food bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rape Victim Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Benevolent Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salvation Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Substance Abuse Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Domestic Violence Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q6a. We want to understand the strategies summer feeding sites are using to attract children. For each of the strategies listed below, please identify if they were used at this summer feeding site during 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Offering adult meals (n=108)</strong></td>
<td>84</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mobile delivery option (n=100)</strong></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provide alternative sites (n=107)</strong></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fun activities paired with meal service (n=107)</strong></td>
<td>52</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Combining meal service with local activities (n=108)</strong></td>
<td>48</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increasing length of service time (n=107)</strong></td>
<td>37</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Offers more than one meal service time (n=106)</strong></td>
<td>56</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partnering with local transit agency to help kids with transportation (n=108)</strong></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Invite local celebrities to the meal site (n=105)</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kick off events (n=104)</strong></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spike events (n=104)</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q6b. Besides the strategies listed above did you do anything else to attract children to this summer feeding site? (Open response, n=42)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Advertising** | "Advertise with posters"  
"Just put out fun ads"  
"Lots of advertising throughout the town, radio, newspaper, flyers."  
"More advertising- more explanation on who can attend (any children)."  
"Promote the program on social media, radio interviews, flyers, door-to-door outreach, teachers and parents help to promote the program."  
"We used our own community publications to promote the event. We distribute online and in the building itself a monthly calendar of events that includes the lunches. We posted it on Facebook."  
"Word of mouth and advertise posters"  
"Word of mouth and flyers"  
"Advertising" |
| **Incentives** | "Drawings every Friday for prizes. Drawing at the end of summer."  
"Every day they came they would put a sticker by their name and after so many days of attendance they would get a prize."  
"Give special treats."  
"Have weekly drawings each week of donated gift certificates etc. from local businesses. Children get to put their name in every time they eat."  
"Previous years we have had daily prize drawings."  
"We are holding a drawing for a free monthly youth Y membership. Each time a child comes to our mobile site they can place their name in the can."  
"We had a drawing each week for a prize, that I personally bought."  
"We do prize days, such as Lucky Tray Day. Where a ticket is attached to the bottom of the lunch tray or inside a sack lunch and kids win prizes if they get a ticket. We give away books, tickets to events, crayons, pencils, and other kid friendly prizes."  
"We have worked with AmeriCorps this year and have set up reading and activities for each sites each week as well as give away free books and AmeriCorps setup a Sustainability booth at our county fair this year and we advertised free throw tickets to the dunk tank at their booth if kids came in and ate lunch with our Summer Food Program at any of our sites.”  
"Weekly drawing or giveaway” |
| **Coordination** | "Co-ordinate meal time with summer school let out.”  
"Coordinate with library activities.”  
"United Church site coordinated with Public Library to offer the summer reading program immediately following the meals to facilitate transportation and alleviate extra expense for parents on holding these events on separate days."  
"Market to sport activities and have feeding times during those times."  
"We also have summer school during serving hours the children attending summer school will have breakfast before and noon meal before returning home!”  
"Summer School"  
"We are a close site and therefore we don’t offer any special activities other than on campus academic programming.”  
"Summer reading program”  
"Coordinate pool/library/bible school/ etc. start times around meal serve times”  
"Summer school activities”  
"Meal service time was right before the pool opened for the afternoon. A library program ended right before we would start serving.” |
| **Other** | "We played music to make it fun.”  
"Based menus on most popular items from the regular school year when possible.”  
"Really good food and caring workers”  
“We have many sites to help make it accessible to as many children as possible.”  
“We offer a wisdom and wellness program for the month of June and it creates more meal activity” |
Q7. We want to understand the strategies summer feeding sites are using to attract children by highlighting the foods being served. For each of the strategies listed below, please identify if they were used at this summer feeding site during 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serves local food (n=101)</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>44.7</td>
<td>55.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serves fresh fruits and vegetables (n=106)</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>98.1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serves produce grown in the area as part of the Farm to School Program (n=101)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>82.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highlights homemade meal components (n=100)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>43.0</td>
<td>57.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serves food kids really enjoy (n=106)</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>98.1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot meals (n=106)</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>93.4</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menu variety (n=106)</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>96.2</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culturally appropriate menu items (n=104)</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>73.1</td>
<td>26.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q8a. During the summer of 2017, did this summer feeding site intentionally serve meals at the same time as any of the following activities as a means to attract children? (Check all that apply, n=111)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community pool hours</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>30.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public library activities</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>73.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and rec activities</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>26.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food pantry distribution times</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmers markets</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer school</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>73.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacation bible school</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>27.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutoring</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q8b. If selected 'other': Please describe the additional activities that you intentionally served meals during the same time to attract children. (Open response, n=11)

- “Summer School at the site”
- “Band Lessons; Summer Sport Camps”
- “Athletic events”
- “Drivers Ed Class”
- “During Stem programs”
- “Softball and baseball games for the younger children were played in the morning”
- “Swimming pool opened shortly after serving time ended”
- “Weight lifting, drivers education, junior high baseball and softball practices and games, swim lessons.”
- “Sport and band camps”
- “Basketball and volley ball camps for all students.”
- “[Organization] partnered with a local nonprofit providing summer leisure activities in a loosely structured environment to youth in a high-need area to serve meals to children in attendance.”
- “Coordinated with drivers education class and [child care organization].”
- “Child care center is located next school so hours are somewhat chosen to accommodate them as well.”
Q9a. During the summer of 2017, did this summer feeding site provide children with any type of incentive (e.g., free entry into pool or community event) to improve participation? (n=107)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q9a. During the summer of 2017, did this summer feeding site provide children with any type of incentive (e.g., free entry into pool or community event) to improve participation? (n=107)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q9b. If selected 'yes': Please describe the incentives used during the summer of 2017. (Open response, n=9)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Prizes         | "Weekly drawings”
"daily prizes”
"We had a free book give away... and free daily Y passes given away.”
"Free pool admits for participants at the end of summer. Prizes for Walking Club activity offered at lunch service.”
"We gave away free books to any child that wanted them. Prizes every week.”
"Community members donated Casey’s pizza "free slice” coupons. We played a game where we taped them to random trays and when the child went to dump their tray, they could see if they won! Also community members donated freeze pops and ice cream that were "treats" and not part of the SFSP reimbursable menu."  "backpack buddies distribution" |
| Activity       | "After they eat they were taken by bus to the pool for free pool day twice a week.”
"Bounce house”
"Games and activities to play.”
"There was free programming provided by the rec center right before meal service. You did not have to be a member of the rec center to be a part of the programming.” |

Q10a. During the summer of 2017, did you advertise this summer food service site through any of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method of advertisement</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banners and signs (n=106)</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>96.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborations with schools (n=99)</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>90.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct mail (n=91)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>30.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood flyers (n=98)</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>74.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper ads (n=103)</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>86.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization website (n=104)</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>89.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio (n=95)</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>49.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School/organization newsletter (n=102)</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>92.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media (n=101)</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>90.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text message (n=89)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food bank/pantry (n=87)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>28.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social service agency (n=89)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>30.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (n=68)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>27.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q10b. If selected 'other': Please list the other types of advertisement below. (Open response, n=17)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Door hangers”</td>
<td>“Posters around the [local organization]”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mode/procedure/process</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“sent to constant contact list”</td>
<td>“Sent flyers and menus for summer program home with the students.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Walk in the parade for the town celebration.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location/placement</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“radio, city LED billboard listing, newspaper church page, church bulletins and posters”</td>
<td>“Electronic backpack with the school.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“In local churches”</td>
<td>“Hospital and local medical clinic”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“church bulletins”</td>
<td>“Flyers at different club locations. Different youth events. Churches”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Posted on city bus and other community resources”</td>
<td>“School Messenger, Flyers home with Students at the end of the school year, local newspaper”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Movie Theater ad”</td>
<td>“Online”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q11. Thinking back to the summer of 2017, please identify whether each was a barrier for this summer feeding site from an operational stand point.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operational barrier</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>n</strong></td>
<td><strong>%</strong></td>
<td><strong>n</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty getting healthy and appealing food (n=102)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffing of the site-people do not want to work during the summer (n=101)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffing of the site-short hours make it difficult to find a work force (n=101)</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate number of volunteers (n=101)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of additional funding to offset costs (n=99)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost money operating this site (n=100)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low participation rates (n=102)</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>35.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low reimbursement rates (n=99)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time consuming paperwork (n=102)</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q12. Thinking back to the summer of 2017, please identify whether each was a barrier for this summer feeding site from a participation stand point.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation barrier</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>n</strong></td>
<td><strong>%</strong></td>
<td><strong>n</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attracting children and caregivers to come to the site on a regular basis (n=101)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>49.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of awareness of the program/site location (n=101)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of ability for caregivers to provide transportation (n=101)</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>43.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children did not like the meals served (n=101)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerns with stigma or being identified as low income/needy (n=100)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The costs of travel to the site for the caregiver outweighed the benefit of the meal (n=101)</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q13. If this summer feeding site has taken any steps to address transportation, please describe them below. (Open response, n=39).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consistent bus service</strong></td>
<td>&quot;We have a local group [redacted] that busses kids to us during the summer while they are in operation.&quot;  &quot;We provide three bus stops where we pick up students; after the program, we include a drop-off point at the pool before going to the other sites.&quot;  &quot;We run on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays - the same days that our fixed route bus service runs.&quot;  &quot;We have transported children through our transportation department to and from summer food sites&quot;  &quot;We have two bus routes that the ministerial association pays for and they pay for adult meals&quot;  &quot;School bus provides transportation.&quot;  &quot;$ was donated to the District. We have 3 pick-up off sites West end of town (low income housing), Park and Library&quot;  &quot;We provide a bus to bring the kids to the school, and we sent emails to parents to let them know where the stops where. These stops were the same as the school stops, so the kids new where to go. Also stopped at the local library where 6 kids hung out daily.&quot;  &quot;We are a closed/enrolled site and transport children to and from the town 6 miles away.&quot;  &quot;Bus service&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Busses during summer school only</strong></td>
<td>&quot;During summer school, the bus would transport to and from the school&quot;  &quot;We offer bus transportation to the three school district communities during the weeks of summer school.&quot;  &quot;During the month of June we have buses running for summer school.&quot;  &quot;We have a bus available from our Elementary School to the High School which is available to the public, but I don’t believe any children other than Summer School attendees are using the service.&quot;  &quot;Summer School transportation provided.&quot;  &quot;Summer school students were bussed to the site.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Services not utilized</strong></td>
<td>&quot;We provide transportation but they do not take advantage of it.”  &quot;Offered free bus passes, but participants did not take advantage.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Walkable sites</strong></td>
<td>&quot;Try to spread sites across the city to make it easier for children to walk to and from the site.&quot;  &quot;We are a consolidated district and provide meals in both towns.”  &quot;We did have one low income housing do a version of a human bus.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Delivery service</strong></td>
<td>&quot;We serve at apartment complexes so the food and activities are right outside the participants' doors.”  &quot;Two years ago summer of 2016 we tried taking meals to a nearby town making it easier for the children to have access to the summer meal program but it was not taken advantage of to the level we had hoped so last summer we didn’t offer that service.”  &quot;New decorated van to deliver meals to remote sites.”  &quot;We delivered meals to 3 off-site housing locations and did not have anyone participate that did not live there. Even though we announced that the meals were open to anyone, the public still felt that the meals were only meant for the kids that lived in those housing units.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transportation/delivery would be nice</strong></td>
<td>&quot;I had sent an article to our superintendent on a bus being converted to a mobile feeding unit to see if we would be able to do this.”  &quot;Used to operated bus to transport children from mobile home park a few miles away, but ended that several years ago due to loss of grant funding.”  &quot;We are a rural community and with parents working it is hard to transport children, if there was funding for transportation I think more children would participate.”  &quot;If the meal delivery was an option, that would be a wonderful idea.”  &quot;No transportation is offer, we cannot afford the cost&quot;  &quot;I have checked with different organizations and no help was available”  &quot;We are going to look at ideas for this next summer... there is never enough time to do everything that needs to be done to promote this program. We ended school on a Friday and started the summer lunch program the following week.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>N/A or transportation is not a problem</strong></td>
<td>&quot;Transportation is not a barrier at either meal service site according to questions asked to families and daycares”  “Because we are a close site, we don’t have transportation problems.”  “There were 8 respondents who said NA, no, etc.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q14a. Do you think this summer feeding site is meeting the needs of the community? (n=103)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t know/unsur e</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q14a.</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>79.6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q14b. If selected 'don’t know/unsure': Please explain why you are unsure or do not think that this summer feeding site is meeting the needs of the community (Open response, n=13).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low participation</td>
<td>&quot;Because our numbers are always so low once summer school is over.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“I feel we should be serving more children than we do.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Comparing last year’s participation to this year, the numbers have dropped.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure how to assess</td>
<td>&quot;Our numbers are very low for all of our sites”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Lack of kids this year.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“I wish our participation was higher”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“I fill that there are more children in the community that could use this for a healthy meal, but does not use it.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>&quot;I am unsure. I don’t know how to assess this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“I actually do not know how many children are around over the summer, so therefore I really don’t know if we are meeting the needs. We are a bedroom community and I think some students go out of town to babysitters over the summer. I am struggling knowing how to reach those in the community.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Area is economically changing. Not as many households with children. Other site, just the opposite.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Outreach is always important as well as transportation. Though looking at the numbers over the past three years they are consistently increasing.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Our lunch feeding site is at the High School which is not centrally located and that may make it harder for young children to attend on their own. I do believe attendance has been better this summer than last.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q14c-d. If selected ‘yes’ or ‘no’: Based on your experience, how much do you believe [your community/the school district] supports the idea of the summer feeding program in your community? (n=17)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group/Entity</th>
<th>Not at all supportive</th>
<th>Somewhat supportive</th>
<th>Very supportive</th>
<th>Community does not know about this program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your community</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>76.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The school district</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>23.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q15. How successful would you rate this summer feeding site on a scale of 1 to 10? (n=102)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Min, Max</th>
<th>Mean (SD)</th>
<th>Median</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q15. How successful would you rate this summer feeding site on a scale of 1 to 10? (n=102)</td>
<td>0, 10</td>
<td>7.4 (1.9)</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX A

Rural High Need Summer Lunch Communities: Stakeholder Phone Interview

Purpose: To assess knowledge, barriers, and opportunities for summer lunch programming in your community.

Introduction: First I would like to know a little about you and your connection with the [SD].

How long have you lived in this area? Do you work in this area? What is your role within your community?

Which organizations or programs do you volunteer for or are you a part of in the [SD] area?

PROBES: Do you (also) participate in church activities? Rotary club in the area? Lions club? (probe for other organizations listed in the community profile)

Before I ask any more questions, let me give you a little more information about a program designed to feed children from low-income families during the summer. It is called the Summer Food Service Program. The program is run by the Iowa Department of Education and provides nutritious meals and snacks in the summer to children who would normally receive free or reduced cost school lunches.

Thinking about the description of the summer feeding program, do you think your community has a need for this program? Why or why not?

Specifically, do you think that poverty is a problem in the [SD] area?

IF YES PROBE: How would you generally describe the level of poverty in your community? And who is a typical person in poverty in your community? (Examples: single mothers, older adults)

IF NO PROBE: What are the indicators specific to your community that poverty isn’t a problem? Do you think other people you know would say the same thing? What about other people in your community? Single mothers? Older adults? Etc.

Would you say that hunger or food insecurity is a problem in the [SD] area? Why do you think that?

IF YES PROBE: Who do you think experiences hunger or food insecurity in your community? (Examples: low-income households)

IF NO PROBE: What have you seen or heard locally that makes you think hunger is not a problem?

Thinking specifically about children- what would you say the percent of students in the [SD] receive free or reduced price lunches at school?

PROBE: Tell me a little more about why you think this is the case in your community?

Follow up: Knowing that free and reduced lunch programs serve children, can you tell me which children you think are more likely to experience hunger in your community?

PROBE: poor families, single parents, parents don’t work

For the children in the [SD] who receive free or reduced lunch at school-what happens to them during the summer? How do they get fed at lunch?

Do you know if there is a summer lunch program in the [SD]?

IF YES: Where is it? Who is running it? What does it look like (indoors, open to the public, etc.) Do people in the community know about the program? What type of child utilizes it? Does this program meet the needs of all the children?

If YES: Why do you think so? What makes the program successful?

If NO: Why do you think the current program hasn’t been expanded? (probe for – people do not know it is a problem, no one willing to do it, people not know about the program, there is not a site that can accommodate it, people will not use the program, tried in the past and wasn’t successful, too expensive to run, not enough local support to start it)

IF NO: (If no program): Why do you think there isn’t a program (probe for – people do not know it is a problem, no one
willing to do it, people not know about the program, there is not a site that can accommodate it, people will not use the program, tried in the past and wasn’t successful, too expensive to run, not enough local support to start it)

If a (new) summer feeding program were started in the [SD], what might be some of the challenges?

PROBE: no space to have it, no sidewalks, no transportation, no one able to organize and run it, hard to get volunteers, difficult to find additional sponsors, getting the word out to parents, parents won’t let their children come, stigma.

I’ve heard it’s difficult to apply for funding (hard paperwork?), parents don’t understand how the program works, another program already exists that is not funded by the Iowa Department of Education...

What type of summer feeding program or what elements would best serve your community?

PROBE: indoor/outdoor space, open to the public, optimal location, optimal schedule, etc.

From your experience as a community member, are there programs or organizations in the area that would provide support for a summer feeding program? Or be willing to organize and run it with support? If so- who?

Getting to my final question- if the Iowa Department of Education wanted to have the [SD] start a summer feeding program-What resources or assistance could they offer you that would help your community start one?

Is there anyone else in [SD] that would be willing and able to complete our survey?

Anything else you would like to share with me before I turn off the recording device?

Thank you for participating!
APPENDIX B
Summer Feeding Site Survey

We invite you to participate in a research study being conducted by investigators from the University of Iowa. The purpose of the study is to better understand the summer feeding program in Iowa.

This survey asks questions about a summer feeding site, the strategies used to attract participants, and resources that contribute to the operation of the site. The survey should take about 5 to 7 minutes to complete. We want to thank you for your time by offering a $10 Walmart gift card upon completion. In order to receive the gift card please make sure you fill out the information required at the end.

If you have any questions about the research study itself, please contact Natoshia Askelson, (319) 335-6887, Email: NatoshiaAskelson@uiowa.edu. If you have questions about the rights of research subjects, please contact the Human Subjects Office, 105 Hardin Library for the Health Sciences, 600 Newton Rd, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242, (319) 335-6564, or email irb@uiowa.edu.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

If you would like to participate in this study please click on the arrow box below.

[Page Break]

Q1. Please select which summer food service program meal site you are completing this survey for from the list of site names below.

<<Drop down menu of the site names from the high and low list>>

[Page Break]

We would first like to know some information about this summer feeding site.

Q2. To the best of your knowledge, how many years has this summer feeding site been in operation at this location?

<<Drop down menu of the number of years>>

☐ Unsure (also as a drop down option)

Q3. How many years have you coordinated the summer feeding program for this site (not counting the summer of 2018)?

<<Drop down menu of the number of years>>

☐ This is my first year coordinating this site

Q4. Based on your experience, how would you rate the level of turnover among summer food service staff? Turnover meaning staff quit during the summer or do not come back the following summer.

☐ No to little turnover

☐ Some turnover

☐ High turnover

☐ This is my first year coordinating this site/don’t know

☐ There are no staff

Q5. Based on your experience, how would you rate the level of turnover among summer food service volunteers? Turnover meaning volunteers quit during the summer or do not come back the following summer.

☐ No to little turnover

☐ Some turnover

☐ High turnover
Q6. From the provided list below, which of the following local groups or persons contributed to this summer feeding site during the summer of 2017. Next you will be asked to identify the ways in which the groups or persons contributed. (Check all that apply)

- Parents
- Community members
- School staff and teachers
- Churches (both staff and congregation)
- Service groups (e.g., Rotary and Lions Club)
- AmeriCorp or FoodCorp
- Retired community members
- In home daycare providers
- Local businesses
- Local organizations of groups
- Donates money to the summer feeding site
- Volunteers time at the summer feeding site by helping with preparation, service, or clean up
- Volunteers time at the summer feeding site by providing activities for children
- Attends meals or snacks with children
- Provides transportation to help children get to this summer feeding site
- Advertises or promotes the summer feeding site
- Advocates for the site
- Provided assistance with forms and application requirements

Q7. Please list the names of the local organizations or groups that contributed to the summer feeding site.

<<Open ended>>

Q8. We want to understand the strategies summer feeding sites are using to attract children. For each of the strategies listed below, please identify if they were used at this summer feeding site during 2017. (Check all that apply)

- Yes
- No

For the following activities: 1) Offering adult meals; 2) Mobile delivery option, 3) provide alternative sites; 4) fun activities paired with meal service (e.g., nutrition education activities or crafts); 5) combining meal service with local activities (e.g., pool time and food pantry operation), 6) increasing the length of service time, 7) offers more than one meal service time (e.g., breakfast or snack service), 8) partnering with local transit agency to help with transportation (e.g., free bus rides for
kids), 9) Invite local celebrities to meal sites, 10) kick off events, 11) spike events

Q9. Besides the strategies listed above did you do anything else to attract children to this summer feeding site?

<<Open ended>>

Q10. We want to understand the strategies summer feeding sites are using to attract children by highlighting the foods being served. For each of the strategies listed below, please identify if they were used at this summer feeding site during 2017. (Check all that apply)

☐ Yes
☐ No

For the following: 1) Serves local food, 2) Serves fresh fruits and vegetables, 3) serves produce grown in the area as part of the Farm to School program, 4) highlights homemade meal components, 5) serves food kids really enjoy, 6) serves fun foods (e.g., smiley potatoes), 7) hot meals, 8) menu variety (e.g., more than a 1 week cycle), 9) culturally appropriate menu items

Q11. During the summer of 2017 did this summer feeding site intentionally serve meals at the same time as any of the following activities as a means to attract children? (Check all that apply)

☐ Community pool hours
☐ Public library activities
☐ Parks and rec activities
☐ Food pantry distribution times
☐ Farmers Markets
☐ Summer school
☐ Vacation Bible School
☐ Tutoring
☐ Other

Q12. During the summer of 2017, did this summer feeding site provide children with any type of incentive (e.g., free entry into pool or community event) to improve participation?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Q13. During the summer of 2017, did you advertise this summer food service site through any of the following: (Check all that apply)

☐ Yes
☐ No

For the following: 1) Banner and signs; 2) collaborations with schools; 3) direct mail; 4) neighborhood flyers; 5) newspaper ads; 6) organization website; 7) radio; 8) school/organization newsletter; 9) social media; 10) text message; 11) food bank/pantry; 12) social services agency (DHS), 13) other (open ended)

Q14. Thinking back to the summer of 2017, please identify whether each was a barrier for this summer feeding site from an operational standpoint. (Check all that apply)
For the following barriers: 1) difficulty getting healthy and appealing food; 2) staffing of the site—people do not want to work during the summer months; 3) staffing of the site—short hours make it difficult to find a work force; 4) inadequate number of volunteers; 5) lack of additional funding to offset costs; 6) lost money operating this site; 7) low participation rates; 8) low reimbursement rates; 9) time consuming paperwork

Q15. Thinking back to the summer of 2017, please identify whether each was a barrier for this summer feeding site from a participation standpoint. (Check all that apply)

☐ Yes
☐ No

For the following barriers: 1) attracting children and caregivers to come to the site on a regular basis; 2) lack of awareness of the program/site location; 3) lack of ability for caregivers to provide transportation; 4) children did not like the meals served; 5) concerns with stigma or being identified as low income/needy; 6) the costs of travel (either gas or time) to the site for the caregiver outweighed the benefit of the meal

Q16. If this summer feeding site has taken any steps to address transportation please describe them below (e.g., ride sharing program, bus service, or meal delivery option).

<<open ended>>

Q17. Do you think this summer feeding site is meeting the needs of the community?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Unsure

Q18. Based on your experience, how much do you believe your community supports the idea of the summer feeding program in your community?

☐ Not at all supportive
☐ Somewhat supportive
☐ Very supportive
☐ The community does not know about this program

Q19. Based on your experience, how much do you believe the school district supports the idea of the summer feeding program in your community?

☐ Not at all supportive
☐ Somewhat supportive
☐ Very supportive
☐ Don’t know/unsre

[Page Break]

[Skip logic from last question if answered no or unsure]

Q20. Please explain why you are unsure or do not think that this summer feeding site is meeting the needs of the community.
Q21. How successful would you rate this summer feeding site on a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being the least successful and 10 being the most successful?

<<insert ladder here from Qualtrics>>

Thank you for your participation