**Beyond Food for Fines: Libraries, Food Banks and Feeding America Learner Guide**

<http://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/beyond-food-for-fines.html>

**Event Description**: In the United States, 1 in every 8 people face hunger. Food insecurity affects 42 million people and impacts every county in America, and libraries are increasingly involved in helping to fight hunger in their communities. Join us to hear how Feeding America, the nation’s largest domestic hunger-relief network, a food bank, and a public library, are all helping to fight hunger. Learn how to assess food security and needs in your area and how to grow community awareness and understanding about hunger through programming or resources. Providing meals can become a key component of library programming, even serving as an incentive for families and children to attend. Explore a range of opportunities to address community hunger needs year-round, and learn how to reach out and engage with local food banks to connect patrons to food.

**Presented by:** Christina Martinez, Kaia Keefe-Oates and Elizabeth Lynch

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| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** | |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |
| **Assessing Food Security Needs** | |
| Visit [Feeding America’s Map the Meal Gap](http://map.feedingamerica.org/) resource to learn more about adult and family food insecurity in your area.  Look up the number of students on free and reduced lunch at your local school districts using the [Kids Count Data Center](http://datacenter.kidscount.org/locations) (Annie E. Casey Foundation).  Determine if your library is in a USDA classified food desert by using the [Food Access Research Atlas](https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/) and think about how that might inform the services your community has or needs. | |
| **Find Your Local Food Bank** | |
| Reach out to your local food bank to discuss potential partnerships and learn about food insecurity in your area. [Find Your Local Food Bank](http://www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank/) on Feeding America. | |
| **Create a Quick Guide for Patrons** | |
| A great first step is to ask your local food bank to provide a list of sites for your patrons to access food resources. Or they can provide you with information so you can create a quick guide with the names, addresses, hours, and resources provided at program sites and local pantries. Note other specific requirements, like if an ID required or if there are limits to number of visit per month. | |
| **Other Potential Partners** | |
| Reach out to food pantries, soup kitchens, meals on wheels, or local faith-based organizations in your area to learn about if there is a potential for partnership, and learn how and if their clients can benefit from your library services.  Talk to your school district. Some have pop-up pantries that would be an excellent place for a partnership. They may also be interested in working together on a backpack program, or an after-school snack program.  Meet with other social service agencies to see if they can do outreach at your library. These are often no cost options that benefit both agencies! | |
| **Talking about Hunger** | |
| Use Feeding America’s [Hungry to Help Family Action Plan](http://www.feedingamerica.org/take-action/campaigns/summer-hunger/family-action-plan.pdf) to help get families in your community involved in the fight to end hunger. Share the action plan with famillies at a program about food security needs in your region. | |
| **Volunteers** | |
| Consider food programming opportunities to engage your existing volunteers or identify potential new volunteers. | |
| **Action Plan: (include next steps, who, when, etc.)** | |
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