**Lunch at the Library: Nourishing Bodies and Minds**

**Learner Guide**

<https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/lunch-at-the-library.html>

**Event Description**: For too many children and teens, summer is a time of hunger and learning loss. Libraries offer the perfect environment to combat childhood hunger and obesity while preventing summer learning loss by offering free, healthy lunch to kids through the USDA Summer Food Service Program. In California, [Lunch at the Library](http://lunchatthelibrary.org/) was developed to provide tailored support to library staff, offering tools to develop successful public library summer meal programs that draw new families to the library, foster community partnerships, and engage families with learning and enrichment opportunities while school is out. Join us for this webinar to learn about the tools and practical tips for starting or expanding a USDA summer meals site and incorporating lunches into your summer reading program. Even if you’ve been offering summer lunches for years, you’ll come away inspired and ready to plan.

**Presented by:** **Trish Garone, Patrice Chamberlain**, and **Jasmin LoBasso**

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| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |
| **Getting Started: Important Questions to Consider** |
| [Lunch at the Library](https://lunchatthelibrary.org/first-steps/introduction/) provides some important questions to consider as you get started: * Is there a need in the community for this program?
* Where else are summer meals being served in our community?
* Is this program right for our library? Is it right for our library right now?
* Can our facility accommodate becoming a summer meal site?
* What assets (including summer reading and other programs) does the library already have in summer? How can we leverage those assets and what do we need to do to supplement those assets in order to be able to operate a summer meal program?
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| **Determining Eligibility and Community Need** |
| Before moving forward, you will need to confirm whether or not your library is located in an eligible area for a summer meal program. As outlined on the [Lunch at the Library](https://lunchatthelibrary.org/first-steps/determining-eligibility-and-library-capacity/) site, there are a number of ways to do this using the resources below:* [The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) / FairData Summer Food Mapper](http://216.55.168.186/FairData/SummerFood/map.asp?command=scope&map=0) provides census data to assess eligibility.
* Contact your local school district food services department director and ask.
* [USDA’s Capacity Builder Tool](http://www.fns.usda.gov/capacitybuilder) uses geomapping to assess the landscape in your community. A range of filters helps provide additional information about the neighborhood and can help you find out if your library is eligible to become a summer meal site.
* Contact the [state administering agency](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Contacts/StateDirectory.htm).

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| **Finding and Working with Your Meal Sponsor** |
| On the Lunch at the Library website, review the information on [Finding and Working with Your Meal Sponsor](https://lunchatthelibrary.org/first-steps/finding-and-working-with-a-meal-sponsor/). In many communities, school districts are the primary summer meal sponsors. In other communities, there may be several meal sponsors. * Contact your school district’s child nutrition director. School districts can be ideal sponsors because of their operational capacity and familiarity with USDA child nutrition programs.
* Reach out to the [USDA School Meal Contact](https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/school-meals-contacts) for your state to find the meal sponsors in your area.
* Contact your local food bank. Food banks are often sponsors or have relationships with other local agencies that are operate a summer meal program. The [Feeding America website](http://www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank/) can help you find your local food bank.
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| **Securing Support from Library Leadership and Staff** |
| Lunch at the Library provides crucial information to consider as a team in [Securing Support from Library Leadership and Staff](https://lunchatthelibrary.org/first-steps/securing-support-from-library-leadership-and-staff/). Review the issues and discuss with your team, identifying here, those areas that might need more clarification and communication.  |
| **Building Partnerships** |
| Review the Lunch at the Library guide for [Building Partnerships to Support Your Program](https://lunchatthelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Building-Partnerships-Lunch-at-the-Library.pdf) (pdf). Using the examples of activities provided, identify potential collaborators in your community and key contacts at those organizations:1.2.3.4.5. |
| **Lunch at the Library Toolkit** |
| If you’re ready to move forward in creating a Summer Meal Program, the [Lunch at the Library Toolkit](https://lunchatthelibrary.org/toolkit/) will help you create a high-quality public library summer meal program.The Toolkit covers these important facets of a successful program:* Creating an Inviting Space
* Partnerships
* Programming
* Volunteers
* Outreach to Families
* Providing Meals to Adults
* Publicity
* Evaluation Tools
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| **Action Plan: (include next steps, who, when, etc.)** |
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