

Books and Bites

Leran Minc, Special Projects Coordinator



Agenda

- I. Introduction of SFSP
- II. General Best Practices
- III. Case Studies
- IV. **Stephanie Maher**, Youth Services Librarian at Palmer Public Library
- V. **April Mazza and Christi Farrar**, Consultants at Massachusetts Library System
- VI. Questions/Discussion

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Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

- In Massachusetts, over 200,000 youth live in food insecure homes. Low-income families often rely on school meals to bridge gaps in their food budgets.
- In the summertime, this critical source of healthy meals for children disappears in many communities.
- SFSP is a federally-funded nutrition program that provides free meals to youth ages 18 and under when school is not in session.



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Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Open vs. Closed Sites

- An **open site** provides free meals to any youth at the site. No registration is required to attend. Sites may operate as an open site if the percentage of youth living nearby who are eligible for free or reduced price meals is equal to or higher than 50 percent.
- A **closed site** limits meal participation to youth enrolled in the site's program(s). Eligibility for a closed site is determined in a variety of ways.



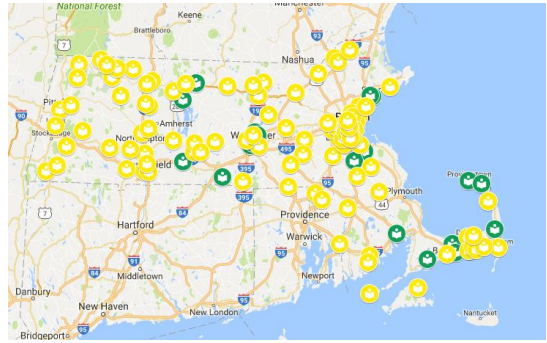
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Best Practices

- Staffing matters
- Teen staffing and engagement
- Signage
- Programming
- Choosing the right location
- Meal times
- Communications and outreach
 - SummerEats App
- Cross-promoting programs

Lots of Potential!



Peabody Institute Library



Wareham Free Library



Palmer Public Library
Palmer, MA



We kicked off the Summer Program with Mini- Golf!



It worked out perfectly to have a performance or story time right before lunch!

While they waited in line for food our volunteers got the space ready for lunch!



Families would leave the Community Room walk over to our kitchen area and then go back into the Community Room to eat their lunch.

We averaged 40-50 lunches a day, twice a week for 6 weeks! That's about 540 meals served for the summer!



www.palmer.lib.ma.us

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Next Steps

1. Contact CNOP (Leran_Minc@projectbread.org)

Then consider....

2. Staffing
3. Meal times
4. Meal storage
5. Meal location
6. Programming
7. Allies and partners
8. Outreach

Finally...

9. Get connected to your sponsor
10. Keep in touch with CNOP!

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What if I can't be a site?

You can still support the program!

- Promote other nearby sites
 - Order materials through meals4kids.org
 - Locate sites and print site lists on meals4kids.org
 - Promote SummerEats App for patrons to find nearby sites
- Provide programming at nearby sites
 - Book mobiles
 - Story Time

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Thank you

