

Summer Food Program in Virginia Libraries

During the summer, kids are at a heightened risk of experiencing hunger. In Virginia, less than 15 percent of kids who eat a subsidized school meal during the school year are able to access meals in the summer.

Our goal for the summer of 2016 is to have 60 public libraries serve as sites or partner with an existing site to provide enrichment activities.

Role of Virginia Public Libraries

Share Information – Locate a Summer Food Site

- Posters / bookmarks in library
- Information on library website
- Information on summer reading program flyers
- Information on the new online summer reading program site.

Encourage Communities to Participate or Collaborate with a Site

- Provide information on being a site or sponsor
- Provide statistical data
- Host enrichment programs at Summer Food Site – STREAM activities, artists, activities, reading area, etc.
- Serve as site for planning meetings
- Share with other libraries best practices and procedures for being a Summer Food Site

Be a Site

- Contact Virginia Department of Health for a sponsor
- Attend training programs provided by sponsor, and follow guidelines
- Collect and report data

Be a Site and Offer Enrichment Services

- Offer food before or after library program
- Offer teen volunteer opportunities – as job training
- Collaborate with other agencies for increased services – for example, blood pressure check, eye exam (Lions Club), and gardening

Other Food Solutions

- Share locations of Farmers' Markets – DaybyDayVA.org or local library website
- Seed checkout – Public library in Covington collaborates with Extension Service to provide seeds to the community. Also, provide educational programs and seed exchange. Seeds are brought in and deposited. Extension Service identifies and sorts seeds

- Community Garden – Buchanan County Public Library created a community garden with local 4H program
- STEM Bags – offered garden in a glove, with the STEM Backpacks.
- Provide **Free** meeting room space for community
- Provide programs related to health and nutrition topics, book discussions, gardening, signing up for health services and other topics
- Provide summer educational activities, i.e., – Summer of Learning with badges and educational activities

Bookmobile Service

- If permitted, they might consider serving snacks
- If permitted, they or a library courier service might consider transporting the meals to the library site

Role of the Library of Virginia

Provide to the Public Libraries information on the summer food program.

- Update the information on the Read Virginia and the Library of Virginia websites
- Promote the summer food program through the *Youth Services Notes* newsletter, which goes to all Virginia public libraries
- Promote the Summer Food text number on Library of Virginia’s Library Development and Networking Facebook page
- Create and provide the public libraries a one-page information sheet on the Summer Food Program in Virginia Libraries
- Refer interested public libraries to the Virginia Department of Health or the No Kid Hungry program
- Partner with SoHo Center to provide a collection of books to each Virginia public library building that is participating in the USDA Summer Food Service Program

Monthly Activities

- August 2015: Work with iREAD to provide promotional materials for libraries
- September 2015: Present printed materials at Youth Services Fall Workshop
- October 2015: Recognize libraries that participated in summer food program at the annual Virginia library director’s meeting on October 21.
- November 2015: Submit order to iREAD for summer reading program materials – order deadline is December 1, 2015
- December 2015: Work with LVA graphic to modify the “To Be Well Read. . . You Must Be Well Fed!” brochure for Virginia. Brochure may be found at: <http://hungersolutionsny.org/information-resources/hunger-resources/be-well-read-you-must-be-well-fed>
- December 2015: Begin working on the summer reading online program – which includes badges for participating in the summer food program. Keep summer food site text and phone number on each page

- January 2016: Update website
<http://readvirginia.com/SummerFoodatYourLibrary.htm>
Need to confirm contact person for libraries
- January 2016: Distribute “To be Well Read. . . You Must be Well Fed!” brochure to libraries. Target those in “Food Insecurity” areas – *see list below*
- February 2016: Include two articles in the *Youth Services Notes* about the summer food program
- March 2016: Offer to the public libraries participating in the summer food program a set of books provided by SoHo Center - <http://www.child2000.org/>
- March 2016: Confirm delivery of Summer Reading Program materials.
- April 2016: Presentation at the Library Director’s Meeting – Dr. Sandra Treadway, Librarian of Virginia, presents information to public library directors
- May 2016: Confirm final list of libraries participating in the summer food program. Provide shipping information to SoHo Center. Update Library of Virginia Summer Learning webpage
<https://www.lva.virginia.gov/lib-edu/ldnd/summer-learning.htm>
- June 2016: Summer Food on Facebook Challenge – encourage libraries to get pictures taken with summer food site number and post it on their library Facebook page
- July 2016: Gather photos and stories to share via the *Youth Services Notes*
- August 2016: Create plan for 2017 summer food program

Resources

Food Deserts in Virginia:

Recommendations from the Food Desert Task Force

January 2014

<http://www.alce.vt.edu/dept-news/food-desert-report.pdf>

Food Deserts

<http://apps.ams.usda.gov/fooddeserts/fooddeserts.aspx>

Food Access Research Atlas

Presents a spatial overview of food access indicators for low-income and other census tracts using different measures of supermarket accessibility

Provides food access data for populations within census tracts; and offers census-tract-level data on food access that can be downloaded for community planning or research purposes

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/fooddesert>

Food Environment Atlas

Food environment factors—such as store/restaurant proximity, food prices, food and nutrition assistance programs, and community characteristics—interact to influence food choices and diet quality. Research has been documenting the complexity of these interactions, but more research is needed to identify causal relationships and effective policy interventions.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/foodatlas/>

Food Insecurity

Petersburg	26.6%	Petersburg Public Library
Emporia	26.5%	Meherrin Regional Library
Martinsville	26.0%	Blue Ridge Regional Library
Danville	23.0%	Danville Public Library
Richmond (City)	22.8%	Richmond Public Library
Brunswick	21.7%	Meherrin Regional Library
Hopewell	20.4%	Appomattox Regional Library
Sussex	19.5%	Blackwater Regional Library
Williamsburg	19.4%	Williamsburg Regional Library
Norfolk	19.2%	Norfolk Public Library
Portsmouth	18.9%	Portsmouth Public Library
Greensville	18.7%	Meherrin Regional Library
Radford	18.7%	Radford Public Library
Harrisonburg	18.4%	Massanutten Regional Library
Lexington	18.4%	Rockbridge Regional Library
Fredericksburg	18.2%	Central Rappahannock Regional Library
Lynchburg	18.0%	Lynchburg Public Library
Charlottesville	17.9%	Jefferson-Madison Regional Library
Mecklenburg	17.9%	Southside Regional Library
Hampton	17.7%	Hampton Public Library
Halifax	17.4%	Halifax County-South Boston Library
Newport News	17.3%	Newport News Public Library System
Prince Edward	17.2%	Central Virginia Regional Library
Roanoke (city)	17.2%	Roanoke Public Library
Buckingham	16.8%	Central Virginia Regional Library
Northampton	16.7%	Eastern Shore Public Library
Lunenburg	16.4%	Southside Regional Library
Galax	16.2%	Galax - Carroll Regional Library
Henry	16.1%	Blue Ridge Regional Library
Nottoway	16.1%	Nottoway County Public Library
Southampton	15.8%	Blackwater Regional Library
Bedford (city)	15.6%	Bedford Public Library System
Charlotte	15.5%	Charlotte County Library
Bristol	15.4%	Bristol Public Library

Library Systems with more than one service area with food insecurity

Sussex	19.5%	Blackwater Regional Library
Southampton	15.8%	Blackwater Regional Library
Martinsville	26.0%	Blue Ridge Regional Library
Henry	16.1%	Blue Ridge Regional Library
Prince Edward	17.2%	Central Virginia Regional Library
Buckingham	16.8%	Central Virginia Regional Library
Emporia	26.5%	Meherrin Regional Library
Brunswick	21.7%	Meherrin Regional Library
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