



MEDIA ALERT

WHAT: The *Summer Lunch at the Library* kick-off event aims to raise awareness among families in Sacramento—and throughout the state—about free, healthy lunches available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) summer nutrition programs. Timed with USDA’s **National Summer Meals Awareness Week**, the event will highlight opportunities for community leaders to come together to ensure that children stay healthy and engaged when school is out, and are ready for school in the fall.

WHEN: **June 13, 2013**
11:30 am – 1:30 pm

WHERE: **Sacramento Public Library, Valley Hi-North Laguna Branch**
7400 Imagination Parkway, Sacramento

WHY: Summer is often far from idyllic for low-income children in California. For many of these children, the closing of school doors for the summer break often means an end to both learning and enrichment opportunities and the nutritious lunch offered by the school lunch program. USDA summer nutrition programs (**Summer Food Service Program** and the **National School Lunch Program’s Seamless Summer Feeding Option**) help to fill the gap left by school’s summer closure by enabling school districts, local and tribal governments, and nonprofit organizations to provide free, healthy meals to low-income children when school is out. Yet in California, in 2011, only 16% of students receiving free or reduced-price lunch during the school year also participated in a local summer meal program (*Source: CFPA, 2012*). USDA has set a target goal to increase participation by 10% in California’s summer meal programs.

This summer, the Sacramento Public Library and Elk Grove Unified School District will provide free summer meals and summer reading programs at the Valley Hi-North Laguna library branch. The partnership is the product of a collaboration between the California Summer Meal Coalition and the California Library Association to bring together public libraries and summer meal providers to support kids’ health and well-being when school’s out.

Schedule: 11:30-11:45 Storytime (outside) with Children’s Librarian, Chris Davis
11:45-12:05 Welcome by: **Rivkah Sass**, Sacramento Public Library Director
Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Jesus Mendoza, Acting Regional Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA Western Region
Gerry Maginnity, Acting California State Librarian
Chet Madison, Sr., President, Elk Grove USD Board of Education

12:05-1:00 Activities for children including: produce taste tests, the “smoothie bike,” Rethink Your Drink activities, a mini farmers market, Glitter the Clown, visits with Sacramento Police and Fire Departments, resources for families...and more!

1:00-1:30 Free lunch for children (age 18 and under) provided by Elk Grove USD

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