

LUNCH AT THE LIBRARY

2015

California's public library summer meal programs provide children and teens with continued access to free, healthy food and learning opportunities essential to their development while school is out.



140,000

Meals served to children and teens in California public libraries in 2015

↑ 62%

increase in number of meals served over 2014 (88,000)

17%

of families who participate in Lunch at the Library programs don't get lunch anywhere else but the library

"The lunch program is wonderful and has been a big help to our family. [We're] struggling financially - thank you and god bless..."



- Lunch at the Library Parent

Families who participate in Lunch at the Library know they can get help and essential resources at the library:

89%

know they can find books and things to borrow at the library



75%

know they can find access to computers



65%

know they can find people to help them



Families who participate in Lunch at the Library programs also feel healthy, happy and safe:

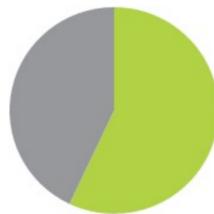
62%

Feel good about themselves



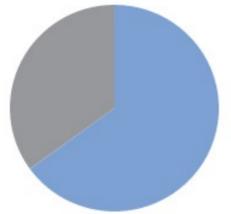
57%

Feel safe



65%

Feel Happy



In 2015, 4,358 people in 73 libraries completed surveys.

Library summer meal programs have helped:

- Support the physical, emotional, and developmental health of low income children in the community.
- Engage children and youth in summer reading programs and other library programming.
- Provide community service opportunities for youth.
- Provide a safe and trusted community space for children and their families to go when school is out.
- Provide families with access to technology and other community resources and services.

Lunch at the Library is a project of the California Library Association and California Summer Meal Coalition. The project is funded by a grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and it is supported by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. The Summer Food Service Program is a program of the United States Department of Agriculture, administered in California by the California Department of Education.



Healthy lunch at the library



State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson; County Librarian, Laurel Prysiazny; & California State Librarian, Greg Lucas



Container gardening at the library

FRESNO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

LUNCH AT THE LIBRARY KICK-OFF CELEBRATION

State and local leaders, children and families, gathered in Fowler, CA, on June 15, 2015, for a celebration of Fresno County Public Library's Lunch at the Library summer meals program.

Speakers at the event, including California State Librarian Greg Lucas, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, Fowler City Mayor Pro Tem Daniel Parra, County Librarian Laurel Prysiazny, and Fresno County Supervisor Buddy Mendes, highlighted the importance of summer learning, enrichment, and nutrition, and celebrated the library's commitment to addressing summer learning loss and food insecurity. Michael Rivera, a representative from State Assembly Member Henry T. Perea's office, presented the library with a Certificate of Accomplishment.

The celebration showcased many of the free resources that are available for families at the library and elsewhere in the community. The Community Food Bank presented nutrition education activities, cooking demonstrations, and smoothie-making. The Fresno County Sheriff's Department, the Valley Children's Hospital, and Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indigena Oaxaqueno distributed resources. And children received free books donated by Disney, and enjoyed storytimes, face painting, and gardening activities.

The Fowler celebration highlights how we can keep California's kids healthy and engaged during the summer months through community partnership and collaboration.



were served to children and teens

provided by Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission.



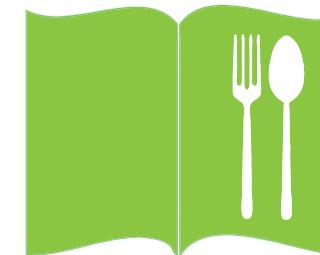
9,000 POUNDS of fresh produce were distributed to families

donated by the Community Food Bank.

As trusted spaces at the heart of the community, providing free summer reading programs and activities, public libraries are natural spaces for serving free meals to children and teens in low-income communities while school is out.

While 2.4 million California children and teens received free or reduced-price lunches during the 2013-2014 school year, only 485,000 participated in USDA summer lunch programs according to the Food Research and Action Center's recent Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation report.

The Fowler Library is one of over 100 public libraries in California, and one of over 130 sites in Fresno County attempting to close this gap by serving free meals to children and teens through the USDA Summer Food Service Program.



LUNCH
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The celebration was presented by the California Library Association, California Summer Meal Coalition, Fresno County Public Library, and Fresno Equal Opportunities Commission

Lunch at the Library is keeping kids healthy and engaged during the summer months to ensure all kids return to school in the fall ready to learn.

For many children and teens, the stability, nutrition, and education provided by the lunches they receive in the school cafeteria, and the learning opportunities they receive in the classroom, ends when school lets out for summer vacation.

lunchatthelibrary.org

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Nourishing Bodies & Minds

Public library summer meal programs help combat childhood hunger, obesity, and learning loss during the summer.

- They provide regularly scheduled, free and healthy meals through the USDA Summer Food Service Program.
- They provide youth with learning and enrichment programs.
- They introduce families to library services and resources.
- They create teen volunteer opportunities at the library.

Libraries are ideally positioned to address the summer learning and nutrition gap through summer meal programs.

Libraries are trusted spaces at the heart of the community.

Libraries welcome everyone and engage the whole family.

Libraries offer summer reading programs that:



encourage children to set and meet reading goals;



include learning and enrichment activities that extend the reading experience;



offer opportunities for social support and positive interaction; and



build communities of readers and library users.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Children and youth report feeling safe, healthy, and good about themselves while at Lunch at the Library programs.
- Librarians report seeing new families at the library, an increase in new library cards, and increased participation in summer reading and other programs.
- Lunch at the Library programs foster community partnerships and intergovernmental collaboration, and help to create more connected cities and counties, while leveraging existing resources.
- Many public library summer meal programs are part of California Campaign for Grade-Level Reading communities.

2015 100+ California libraries served more than 120,000+ meals.*

2014 65 California public libraries served more than 85,000 meals.

In 2014, 19% of surveyed children and youth reported that they ate lunch only at the library during the summer.

2013 17 California public libraries served more than 22,000 meals.

*not final numbers