

# SUMMER MEALS AND FOODCORPS

## An Introduction for No Kid Hungry Partners



### What is FoodCorps?

FoodCorps is a nationwide team of AmeriCorps leaders who collaborate with communities to make schools healthier places for kids to eat, learn, and grow. Through a partnership with AmeriCorps, FoodCorps recruits, trains and places emerging leaders into limited-resource schools for a year of service implementing a three-ingredient recipe for healthy kids: teaching hands-on lessons about food and nutrition, engaging kids through gardening and cooking activities, and sourcing local, nutritious foods to the cafeteria.

With a focus on creating healthy school food environments, FoodCorps service members are a natural fit for supporting Summer Meals efforts by assisting with promotion and outreach, offering nutrition or gardening programming alongside Summer Meals, or supporting food service with local procurement.

### Get Connected

FoodCorps service members are overseen by host sites—the state-level organizations that oversee the FoodCorps program in a given state—and housed with service sites—which may be schools, districts, or community-based non-profits—in 17 states across the country plus Washington, DC. To learn more about partnering with a FoodCorps service site partner on Summer Meals opportunities in your area, we encourage you to reach out to [your state's FoodCorps Fellow](#).

### EDUCATE FOODCORPS MEMBERS ABOUT PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

FoodCorps members are embedded in communities and can be great advocates for the program—if they understand how it works and what they can be doing to help. Reach out and share information about Summer Meals with FoodCorps service members working in local communities. They are embedded in communities and have the potential to become great advocates for the program if given the right information and tools.



**SHARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOODCORPS MEMBERS TO MAKE AN IMPACT**

As you are working across the state, in areas where there is overlap with FoodCorps programs, share opportunities to support a Summer Meals sponsor or Summer Meals site. And be sure to let FoodCorps members know how they can help with the Summer Meals programs. Suggestions include:



**BRINGING LOCAL PRODUCE TO SUMMER MEALS SITES**

FoodCorps members can initiate a pilot program to bring local produce into Summer Meals by connecting school food services with local farmers.



**PROVIDING ACTIVITIES AT SUMMER MEALS SITES**

Activities at Summer Meals sites are a tried and true tactic to increase attendance of kids and teens. FoodCorps members can act as a draw for kids by providing demonstrations, tastings, gardening and nutrition education activities at Summer Meals sites.



**EXPANDING ACCESS THROUGH SUMMER MEALS SITE ADDITIONS AND OUTREACH**

FoodCorps members are typically well connected in their schools and communities as a result of their everyday ground-level work. They may be able to use these partnerships and their unique perspective to find programs that could make great sites and to help get the word out to families about Summer Meals.



**INVITE FOODCORPS LEADERS TO THE TABLE**

At the state level, FoodCorps host sites and fellows have a unique perspective and connections within the community and schools. Summer Meals can be a vehicle for both groups to collaborate to feed kids nutritious foods during a time of year when family budgets can be tight. Consider hosting a meeting to discuss how to connect your strategies and work together to reach similar end goals.

**Learn More!**

[Click here](#) to learn more about FoodCorps in your state. Visit the [No Kid Hungry Center for Best Practices](#) website for more information about Summer Meals and what works to get more kids participating in the program.

