



Summer Food Service Program News

December 2016

Northeast Kansas 2016 SFSP Summit recap

On December 8, Kansas Appleseed, the Kansas State Department of Education and the Kansas Health Foundation hosted the first of four regional Summer Food Service Program Summits in Topeka. Those who attended—including site sponsors, community leaders, partner organizations and anti-hunger advocates from Northeast Kansas—heard from Summer Food Service Program veterans and participated in sessions on promoting sites, meal planning and alternate ways to support the program. Additionally, participants worked collaboratively in discussion groups and through activities in order to talk about their communities' specific obstacles and how to address them.

We'd like to thank our speakers and guests for their dedication to the Summer Food Service Program and for making this such a great event.

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Join us for a regional SFSP summit near you

Next month, we'll be hosting three additional regional summits for the northwest, southwest and southeast parts of the state. The summits will be comprised of sessions dedicated to increasing participation, starting a program, evaluating your community's need and eligibility and community support, as well as community-level discussions and problem solving.

Please help us to spread the word by forwarding this information on to interested colleagues and friends. Diverse perspectives at the table will ensure that we are able to bring to even more meals to Kansas kids in 2017.

Dates, locations and registration links are listed below:

- **Northwest Regional:** Wednesday, January 18 in Goodland - [View agenda here](#) - [Register here](#)
- **Southwest Regional:** Thursday, January 19 in Garden City - [View agenda here](#) - [Register here](#)
- **Southeast Regional:** Tuesday, January 24 in Pittsburg - [View agenda here](#) - [Register here](#)

For more information about the summits, please contact Christina Ostmeyer at costmeyer@kansasappleseed.org or 316-640-7320.

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2016 highlights

Thanks to 157 sponsors' 549 sites, the Summer Food Service Program in Kansas served over 1.3 million meals in 2016. Also, there are now only 19 counties without a site, down from 35 counties in 2015.

Three Kansas cities--Wichita, Lawrence and Kansas City--have received grants this year through the Cities Combating Hunger Through Afterschool Meals Programs initiative. This initiative, created by the National League of Cities and the Food Research and Action Center, aims to reduce childhood hunger by expanding afterschool and summer meals. The second round of applications were due December 14, and decisions will come out soon.

As a part of its School's Out, Power Up for Summer Fun campaign, the USDA released its Summer Food, Summer Moves toolkit designed to get kids and families excited about exercise and healthy eating during the summer. See the toolkit [here](#).

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It's time to start thinking about the summer

Have you started to prepare for next summer? Sponsors and advocates alike can check out the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) Summer Nutrition Programs Implementation Calendar for guidance in planning for 2017.

FRAC's January recommendation: Develop Action Plans

- **Sponsors:** Create an action plan and convene meetings with all relevant stakeholders.
- **Advocates:** Establish deadlines for when each of your tasks associated with the responsibilities you are committing to will be completed [in order to support SFSP site(s)].

See FRAC's full calendar [here](#).

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Thank you for your hard work and efforts on behalf of Kansas kids in 2016. With every meal served, you made a difference in that child's life.

We hope you have a wonderful holiday season,

Christina and the Kansas Appleseed Team

costmeyer@kansasappleseed.org

316-640-7320

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