

School's Out . . . Who Ate?

A Report on California's Summer Food Service Program

June 2003



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LeConté Dill

Food Access Policy & Advocacy Coordinator

George Manalo-LeClair

Director of Legislation

June 2003



116 New Montgomery Street, Suite 633
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone (415) 777-4422
Fax (415) 777-4466
Email cfpa@cfpa.net

www.cfpa.net

This report was prepared by California Food Policy Advocates using data provided by the California Department of Education.

California Food Policy Advocates

California Food Policy Advocates is a public policy and advocacy organization whose mission is to improve the health and well being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious and affordable food.

CFPA is California's only statewide advocacy organization with a focus on food and nutrition for low-income people. The organization's work emphasizes the critical importance of preserving, improving and expanding participation in the federal food programs, the state's strongest tool in overcoming malnutrition and hunger. CFPA works with community-based organizations to identify critical food access problems and to mobilize effective solutions to them.

CFPA uses research and analysis, advocacy, and community education and mobilization to ensure that every Californian has access to the nutrition required to grow, to learn, and to lead a productive life.

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by California Food Policy Advocates using data provided by the California Department of Education. Our thanks to CFPA's Sonia Panigrahy, who did the bulk of the number crunching. Special thanks to California Department of Education's Nutrition Services Division for assistance in preparing this report. Special thanks to the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services Division, Western Region office for their continued support of the Summer Food Service Program.

California Food Policy Advocates is grateful to The California Endowment, The California Wellness Foundation, Community Food Nutrition Program, Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, Walter and Elise Haas Fund, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Public Welfare Foundation, Rosenberg Foundation, Share Our Strength, and Hal Wallis Foundation, whose financial support made this report possible.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Childhood hunger is a real and persistent problem in California. Federal child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), are intended by Congress to alleviate this problem. Despite the existence of these programs, however, many children who received free or reduced-price meals at school during the school year are not getting nutritional assistance during the summer months. With unemployment high and many families recently plunged into poverty, increasing the availability of summer meals is essential for keeping children well-fed.

Children below 185% of the federal poverty level (see Appendix F) are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals. This report finds that just 24% of these eligible low-income children in California were getting nutritional assistance through either the School Lunch or Summer Food Program during July 2002. Despite a 7% increase in the number of kids getting meals since 1999, three quarters of eligible kids remained unserved in July.

Despite this large percentage of children unserved, national reports rank California as a leader in serving kids in the summer. This national ranking is deceptive: California appears to be doing an exemplary job of feeding kids when school is out, but, in fact, school is *not* out for many of the children participating in food programs in July. California simply has a higher number of year-round schools than other states; more than half of the nation's children in year-round schools are from California. Summer for these children may occur in October, February or April.

The report highlights recent concerns that budget cuts have reduced or eliminated summer school (where feeding is likely to occur) or have made it difficult for local sponsors to operate lunch programs. The findings are not recent enough to capture what we are sure is an impending loss of the school and community activities to which summer lunch programs typically attach themselves. We urge local advocates to be on the look-out for this development.

The report identifies policy opportunities to strengthen food access for low-income Californians, specifically through expanding summer meals through the reauthorization of the child nutrition programs by Congress in 2003. Among the recommended policy changes is a proposal to make it easier for community-based sponsors to operate nutrition programs by cutting red tape and making it far simpler to feed children meals and snacks 365 days a year—not just when school is in session.

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Hunger

In the current economic downturn, it should be no surprise that the number of working poor families in California has reached an all-time high. According to the California Budget Project, nearly 2 million California families include adults who work, but do not earn adequate incomes to cover necessary expenses. Research and experience are clear: for these families, food will be the most vulnerable part of their budget. Families take care of rent and other basics first, leaving few resources for nutritious, consistent meals.

Low incomes can mean children are left hungry. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that 3 million children experience “food insecurity” in California. “Food insecurity” is a term used by researchers when the availability of nutritious food is inadequate or uncertain.¹ Simply put, people experiencing food insecurity are struggling and sometimes failing to get enough nutritious food.

Hunger hurts both a child’s hopes and health: hungry kids are more likely to have academic problems as well as health problems. Children experiencing food insecurity are more likely to be tardy or absent from school; they are more likely to have discipline problems and score lower on standardized tests. Children experiencing food insecurity have more health problems such as headaches, colds, and ear infections than other children.²

Feeding Children in Summer

Recognizing the persistent problem of hunger, California state law requires schools to serve meals to needy students when school is in session. Almost 3 million children participate in the National School Lunch Program and 1 million in the School Breakfast Program in California.³ Children below 130% of the federal poverty level are eligible for free school meals; children between 130% and 185% of the poverty line pay a reduced price for meals (see Appendix F for current poverty level information). The meals served by these valuable breakfast and lunch programs can provide children with more than half of the Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA) for key nutrients.

¹ Center on Hunger, Brandeis University, www.centeronhunger.org

² Alaimo, K, et al. *Food Insufficiency and American School Aged Children’s Cognitive, Academic, and Psycho-Social Development*. And *Food Insufficiency, Family Income, and Health in US Preschool and School-Aged Children* <http://www.apha.org/journal/abstracts/may01/ab4may01.htm>

³ California Department of Education Nutrition Services Division Annual Report, <http://www.cde.ca.gov/nsd/annualrpt.pdf>

But what happens during the summer months, when traditional schools (those not operating year-round) are not in session?

There are two programs that aim to feed eligible children during the summer. First, the National School Lunch Program, described above, continues to operate in the summer months in year-round schools and in summer sessions. There are 1,591 year-round schools in 193 districts with a total enrollment of 1,391,573 students in California.⁴ The nutritional needs and non-summertime hunger gaps created by year-round schools were the subject of CFPA's 1999 report: *The Sleeping Giant: Outlook on Year Round Summer Food*.

State law requires schools to serve meals during summer school sessions. However, this requirement can be waived if any two of the following conditions are met:

- ❖ The summer school session is less than 4 hours in duration and is completed by noon.
- ❖ Less than 10% of the needy pupils are there for more than three hours.
- ❖ Serving meals would result in demonstrable financial loss to the district.
- ❖ A summer food service program for children serves the school attendance area.

Because of the availability of these waivers, there is no guarantee that nutrition programs are operating in connection with summer school.

The second program, originally designed for children who attend traditional schools or who do not participate in summer school, is the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). SFSP is a federally funded child nutrition program that allows for reimbursement to schools, community organizations, and local government agencies that serve meals to low-income children during the summer months or whenever school is out for more than 15 days. Congress initiated the summer food program in 1968 as a pilot program. In 1975, the program was incorporated into the existing federal child nutrition programs. SFSP is operated nationally by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and, in California, by the California Department of Education.

Summer Food Service Programs run by community-based organizations are generally connected to enrichment, recreation and other programs. Through this connection, these programs provide not only nutrition, but also needed summer activities for children.

⁴ National Association of Year Round Education, www.nayre.org

As we launch into Summer 2003, we should look back and evaluate California's progress at using the network of year-round schools, summer schools and community-based sites to make sure hungry kids don't fall through the cracks during the summer. Drawing on data from the California Department of Education, the following analysis answers the question: So who ate?

California Food Policy Advocates examined data from 2002 in order to answer the following four questions:

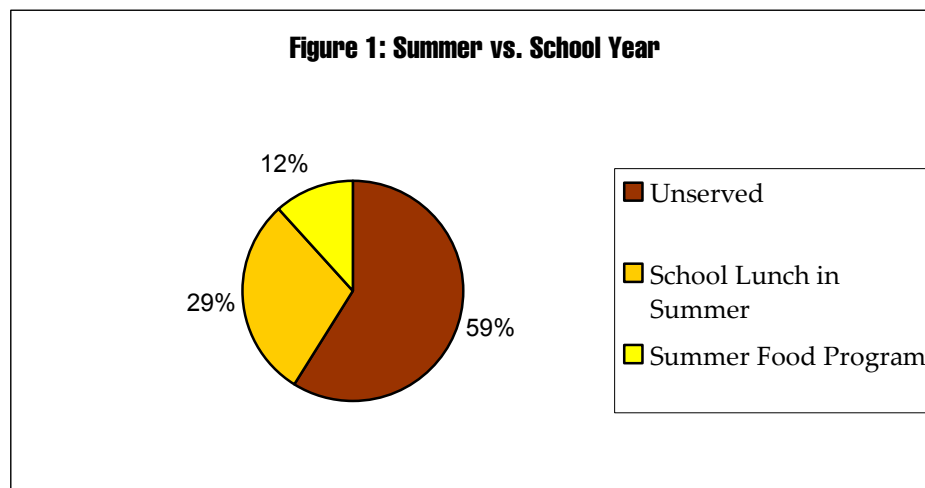
1. Are kids who **participate** in school meals during the school year getting fed through meal programs in the summer?
2. Are children from **eligible** low-income families getting fed through meal programs in the summer?
3. How does the summer of 2002 **compare** to recent years?
4. Are there regional (county) differences in the numbers of kids fed during the summer?

1. Are kids who participate in school meals during the school year getting fed through meal programs in the summer ?

To answer this question, CFPA compared the average number of children receiving free and reduced-price meals during the 2001-2002 school year with the number of children receiving school or summer meals in July 2002.

Answer

In California, an average of 2,096,342 children participated in free and reduced-price meals during the school year. Forty-one percent (860,106) of these children were receiving meals in July 2002. As Figure 1 depicts, 29% were receiving meals in July through the National School Lunch Program and 12% were receiving meals through the summer food program.

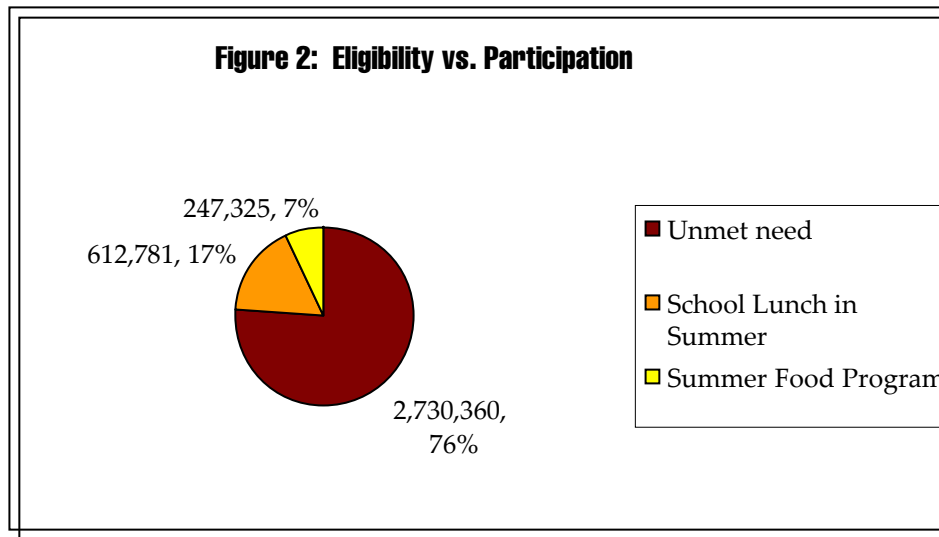


2. Are children from eligible low-income families getting fed through meal programs in the summer?

To answer this question, CFPA compared summer meal participation (both the National School Lunch Program and Summer Food) with the number of eligible kids from U.S. Census data. Children living in families with incomes below 185% of the federal poverty level are eligible for summer free or reduced-price meals.

Answer

According to the most recent Census data, 3,590,466 children under the age of 18 in California are eligible for summer meals based on their families' income. Since both the summer food and school meal programs reach just 860,000 kids in the summer, there is a significant unmet need, as shown in Figure 2.



3. How does the summer of 2002 compare to recent years?

While CFPA has been analyzing summer food data for many years, we have been using the current methodology for the last 3 years. To identify trends, we compared the results from the 2000 and 2001 reports (see www.cfpa.net for copies) to this year's findings.

Answer

There was a 5% increase in the total number of kids served (both from school lunch in the summer and the summer food program) from 2001 to 2002. Figure 3 depicts this trend.

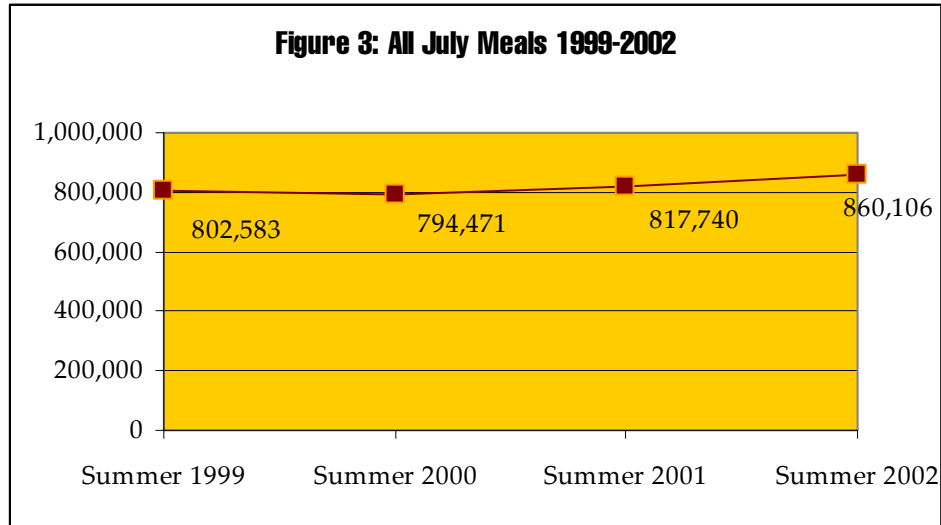
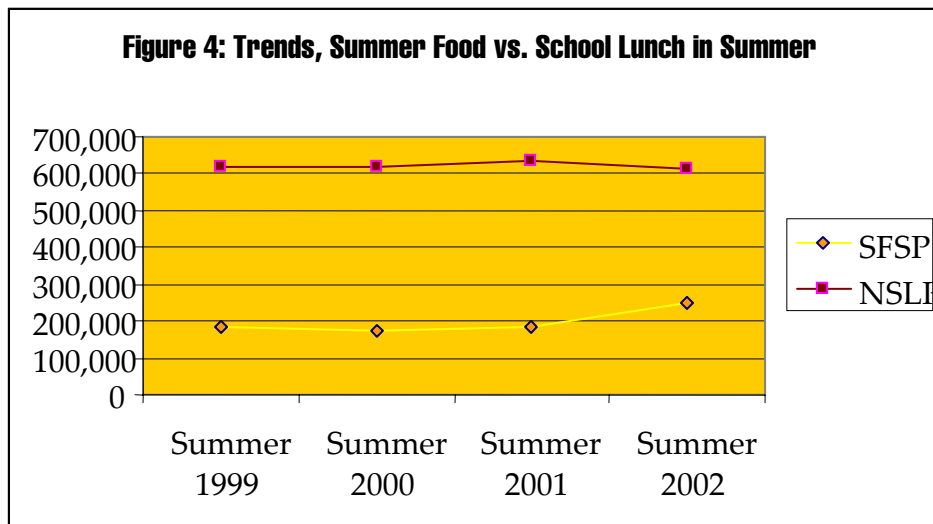


Figure 4 clarifies where the increase occurred – through the Summer Food Service Program or through National School Lunch Program served during the summer.



As the graph depicts, the number of meals served through the Summer Food Service Program has increased during the last year, while school meals have decreased slightly.

This is most likely due to a new administrative option, the Seamless waiver, which will be discussed in the analysis.

4. Are there regional (county) differences in the numbers of kids fed during the summer?

Using county data provided by CDE and the U.S. Census, CFPA performed the above analysis on each of California's 58 counties. Appendix A contains this county-by-county breakdown.

Answer

In 2002, 15 of California's 58 counties did not have a single Summer Food Service Program site. Six of these counties also did not serve meals through the National School Lunch Program in July, leaving many low-income kids without any summer food option.

Santa Cruz County did the best job feeding eligible kids in the summer, reaching 43% of eligible children. Calaveras County did the best job on continuity: they reached 93% of the kids who participated in the National School Lunch Program during the school year with either the summer food or school lunch program in July.

The Story Behind the Numbers

In analyzing the results, two key issues emerge from the data and the methodology which demonstrate the importance of understanding how schools and the meal programs work in order to understand the state's true success in meeting the needs of hungry children in California:

Impact of year-round schools

As Figure 1 indicates, only 41% of the kids fed during the school year receive summer meals through the Summer Food Service or National School Lunch Program. While initially this may look like poor performance, California ranks number one in the country on this measure, according to a recent report by the Food Research and Action Center (www.frac.org). However, this ranking is deceptive, as it masks the large number of year-round schools in California. For these year-round schools, "summer" is not in July and kids receive meals then as part of the regular school year. So while California may be doing a better job than other states at reaching hungry kids in July, we may or may not be doing a good job reaching them when school is out at other times of the year. In CFPA's 1999 report, *The Sleeping Giant: Outlook on Year Round Summer Food*, we found only 2% of off-track children were receiving a meal during their breaks, scattered from September through May.

The August Gap

The use of July data as a measure of feeding when school is out also masks another issue, the August Gap. Even though schools are required (with more than a few exceptions) to serve meals during summer sessions, many summer sessions end in July. Given that 29% of kids fed in the summer in California are fed at school, we can expect many kids to go unserved when school sites end operation in or before August. Few summer school sites are located in close proximity to community sites serving meals through August. See Appendix G for data on the August Gap.

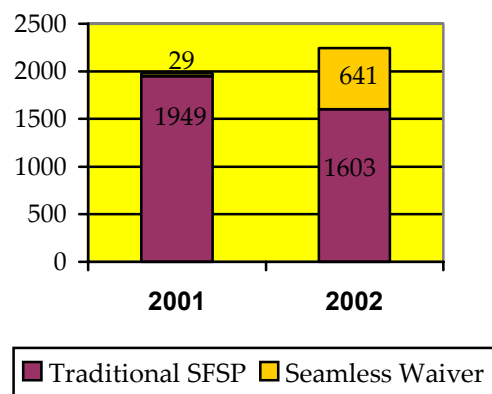
Policy Progress Report

The findings suggest that recent policy changes may be having a positive impact on summer feeding programs, but also that the potential negative impact of recent local government funding crises may not yet be reflected in the data:

The Seamless Waiver. CFPA and partnering organizations have pushed hard for programmatic changes to make meal programs easier to operate. One of the results was a nationwide “Seamless Summer Food Waiver” modeled on successful California pilot programs in Alisal Union School District (Salinas) and Fresno Unified School District. Under the waiver, school districts can operate SFSP under the same guidelines and regulations as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), dramatically reducing the paperwork and monitoring requirements and enabling schools to feed more hungry children. Starting in 2002, school districts across the state were given this opportunity. By 2002, 641 California sites were using the Seamless Waiver, bringing the total number of Summer Food Sites to more than 2,200.

While this waiver has resulted in an increase in the total number of *sites* (266) and likely accounts for the slight increase in SFSP participation found in Figure 4, expected large jumps in overall summer *participation* have yet to occur. As the program gets easier to operate through efforts like the waiver, increases in participation are likely to follow.

Figure 5: Expansion of Seamless Sites



Local Government Budget Crises. A recent review of school board minutes found numerous examples of schools confronted with the dilemma of having to end, shorten or modify summer school, due to budget crises. Sadly, school budgets are not likely to improve in the coming year and we can expect a continuing erosion of summer school opportunities. Given the state law regarding service of meals during summer school, reductions in summer sessions will likely reduce feeding opportunities, perhaps exacerbating the problem of the August Gap described above.

However, schools are not the only entities facing budget cuts. Local City and County Parks and Recreation programs may also receive less funding for staff to serve lunches or funding may be eliminated in the near future. As these programs are so often the anchor for summer meals, curtailing these services could have a severe impact on meal participation.

CFPA will continue to monitor the impact of local government funding on summer feeding.

Hope from the Findings

While the threats of local government budget cuts are cause for alarm, rays of hope emerge from the findings as well:

Individual county performance demonstrates California can do better. A careful look at Appendix A shows that reaching a high percentage of kids in the summer is possible. Calaveras (which reached 93% of students) and Santa Cruz (82%) provide best practices that can help improve our state's performance and provide momentum for improving our state's currently dismal rate of 41%.

More sites can be added. The success of the seamless waiver shows not only that there are new sponsors and sites waiting to join the summer meal program, but also how important it is to ease program administration. For examples of how the seamless waiver facilitates operations, see Appendix C.

Gaps can be filled. This report highlights the hunger gaps that are the by-product of year-round schools and the lack of summer school in August. Communities are already taking steps to address these gaps, as shown in the examples featured in Appendix D.

Local budget cuts can be overcome. One community has successfully taken action to counteract the negative impact of local budget cuts. See Appendix E for details.

POLICY ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

As the local findings suggest, we can and should do more to fill hunger gaps in the lives of California's children. There are actions to be taken and specific opportunities, like Child Nutrition Reauthorization, that must be seized. Here are our recommendations:

Federal Level

Congress will reauthorize all of the federal child nutrition programs, including SFSP, by September 2003. This provides a great chance to do the following:

- ❖ **Establish a new Community Child Nutrition Program.** as an option for community non-profit and government agencies that want to serve meals and snacks year-round to hungry kids. By eliminating the complex and burdensome differences between serving lunches through the Summer Food Service Program and snacks through the Child Care Food Program, many local government and community-based sponsors will serve more nutritious meals and snacks year-round.
- ❖ **Give schools responsibility to serve children 365 days a year.** The Bush Administration has introduced a proposal to create a single, year-round, seamless school nutrition program. Such a proposal is worthy of support as one program will be easier to administer and will increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of schools' efforts to feed children.
- ❖ **Streamline SFSP.** Allow all schools to claim summer meals using school lunch program paperwork and guidelines by making the seamless waiver permanent. Congress should expand what is known as the Lugar pilot projects, which reimburse programs in a lump sum that includes both meal and administrative costs ("meals times rate"). These pilots ran in 13 low-performing states last year and significantly increased participation in SFSP.
- ❖ **Address rural gaps and invest in start-up grants.** Senator Herb Kohl (WI) has introduced the *Summer Food Service Program Improvement Act of 2003*, S 1021. This legislation would expand eligibility for summer meals in rural areas, would make the "meals times rate" change described above happen nationwide and would create a \$10 million start-up fund for summer meal programs.

State Level

- ❖ **Increase use of start-up and expansion grants.** CDE awards competitive grants of up to \$15,000 per site for sponsors' expenses in initiating or expanding summer meals programs. Too few sponsors currently access this money which is available for items such as equipment, staff training, outreach, meal transport vehicles, or

computer point-of-sale systems. Applications are available each spring by contacting CDE (800-952-5609).

- ❖ **Encourage sponsor and site-level outreach.** CDE Child Nutrition Consultants have ongoing relationships with most sponsors. During regular site and monitoring visits, CDE staff can encourage sponsors and site operators to increase participation in SFSP through innovative and effective strategies, including the ones profiled in this report. Outreach to eligible families is critical for boosting SFSP participation, and multiple methods have been shown to work in different regions of the state.
- ❖ **Promote SFSP opportunities at conferences throughout the year.** CDE hosts spring and fall trainings. Staff can use these venues to promote the ongoing improvements and policy changes in SFSP, as well as to share best practices to increase participation implemented by local sponsors and sites.

Local Level

- ❖ **Use community mapping tools to locate service gaps.** Some areas of high need do not have a local summer feeding site, yet community leaders may not fully understand local needs. To raise awareness of these gaps, first plot the current SFSP sites in your town or city and see if the sites are located throughout high-poverty areas. You can do this using a geographic information system (GIS), Census data, or just a regular map and push pins. Remember, if half of the families in a particular neighborhood have an income at or below 185% of the federal poverty level, that neighborhood is eligible to have a summer feeding site. Once gathered, this information is invaluable when planning and promoting programs with local leaders to fill these gaps. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/sfsp/>
- ❖ **Sign up community sponsors and sites.** Local community and governmental agencies serving low-income children need assistance starting up SFSP. Support should be increased to those agencies new to running a summer meals programs. Local organizations that serve a high-need population but do not have the capacity to run SFSP should be connected with well-established school districts or community agencies that can serve as their sponsor.
- ❖ **Schedule site visits for local advocates, policy makers, and parent groups.** Interested in the needs of low-income children, but never seen the benefits of summer food programs firsthand? Contact your local school district or CFPA to inquire about visiting a SFSP site to meet the staff, children and parents.
- ❖ **Promotion, Promotion, Promotion.** Market program locations through local churches, housing complexes, WIC offices, check cashing locations, Laundromats, grocery stores and child care centers.

APPENDIX A: COUNTY-BY-COUNTY DATA

County	*Eligible for meals in the Summer	Number getting a free/reduced price School Meal in July	Number getting a summer food service meal in July	**Total meals in the summer	Number of kids getting Free/reduced price during school year	Percent of kids getting FRP meals during school who get summer meals	Percent of eligible kids getting summer meals	County Rank (1=worst under-utilization among eligibles)
Alameda	95,820	5,019	10,414	15,433	48,671	32%	16%	30
Alpine	129	0	0	0	74	0%	0%	1
Amador	1,910	128	0	128	930	14%	7%	18
Butte	21,737	1,271	6,929	8,200	11,796	70%	38%	57
Calaveras	3,266	1,159	61	1,220	1,307	93%	37%	56
Colusa	2,906	0	955	955	2,030	47%	33%	55
Contra Costa	53,776	4,802	6,253	11,055	30,403	36%	21%	34
Del Norte	3,393	541	0	541	1,901	28%	16%	29
El Dorado	8,916	1,222	64	1,286	13,081	10%	14%	27
Fresno	144,625	24,114	6,785	30,899	86,567	36%	21%	35
Glenn	4,507	0	0	0	2,509	0%	0%	1
Humboldt	13,242	145	737	882	6,113	14%	7%	17
Imperial	24,720	1,199	2,789	3,988	16,767	24%	16%	31
Inyo	1,586	146	68	214	767	28%	13%	25
Kern	109,887	6,417	10,168	16,585	67,408	25%	15%	28
Kings	19,995	37	612	649	10,614	6%	3%	12
Lake	7,061	503	185	688	4,025	17%	10%	22
Lassen	2,674	0	0	0	1,318	0%	0%	1
Los Angeles	1,252,033	218,356	92,242	310,598	714,412	43%	25%	42
Madera	19,529	5,057	0	5,057	12,041	42%	26%	43
Marin	8,030	246	280	526	2,924	18%	7%	16
Mariposa	1,519	0	0	0	632	0%	0%	1
Mendocino	9,956	681	2,079	2,760	5,516	50%	28%	47
Merced	39,394	7,385	1,581	8,966	25,247	36%	23%	38
Modoc	1,251	17	0	17	861	2%	1%	10
Mono	1,265	0	0	0	413	0%	0%	1
Monterey	46,184	3,477	11,071	14,548	28,041	52%	32%	53
Napa	8,377	120	350	470	4,587	10%	6%	15
Nevada	5,502	192	25	217	1,474	15%	4%	13
Orange	239,461	39,366	12,212	51,578	142,901	36%	22%	36
Placer	10,839	409	637	1,046	6,112	17%	10%	21
Plumas	1,793	0	0	0	862	0%	0%	1
Riverside	185,837	40,774	9,398	50,172	114,526	44%	27%	44

County	*Eligible for meals in the Summer	Number getting a free/ reduced price School Meal in July	Number getting a summer food service meal in July	**Total meals in the summer	Number of kids getting Free/ reduced price during school year	Percent of kids getting FRP meals during school who get summer meals	Percent of eligible kids getting summer meals	County Rank (1=worst under-utilization among eligibles)
Sacramento	130,600	23,922	12,034	35,956	88,023	41%	28%	46
San Benito	5,082	664	507	1,171	2,453	48%	23%	39
San Bernardino	234,027	64,525	2,802	67,327	141,851	47%	29%	50
San Diego	261,899	68,031	5,349	73,380	152,453	48%	28%	48
San Francisco	32,466	4,804	4,077	8,881	23,371	38%	27%	45
San Joaquin	75,235	18,902	4,462	23,364	39,081	60%	31%	52
San Luis Obispo	15,156	1,278	0	1,278	7,918	16%	8%	19
San Mateo	28,150	2,196	1,718	3,914	15,752	25%	14%	26
Santa Barbara	37,703	9,444	1,885	11,329	21,259	53%	30%	51
Santa Clara	81,269	7,703	15,274	22,977	52,305	44%	28%	49
Santa Cruz	18,886	2,385	5,785	8,170	10,019	82%	43%	58
Shasta	17,824	512	1,108	1,620	9,918	16%	9%	20
Sierra	324	0	0	0	183	0%	0%	1
Siskiyou	5,310	60	0	60	2,232	3%	1%	9
Solano	28,691	5,734	672	6,406	15,010	43%	22%	37
Sonoma	25,399	2,118	673	2,791	14,185	20%	11%	23
Stanislaus	59,320	15,393	3,675	19,068	34,401	55%	32%	54
Sutter	9,891	88	90	178	5,793	3%	2%	11
Tehama	7,295	304	0	304	4,149	7%	4%	14
Trinity	1,541	0	271	271	836	32%	18%	32
Tulare	73,898	7,078	6,806	13,884	41,782	33%	19%	33
Tuolumne	3,861	43	0	43	1,772	2%	1%	8
Ventura	60,027	11,784	2,407	14,191	38,336	37%	24%	40
Yolo	15,224	2,051	1,675	3,726	7,875	47%	24%	41
Yuba	10,268	979	160	1,139	6,773	17%	11%	24
Statewide	3,590,466	612,781	247,325	860,106	2,096,342	41%	24%	

*Number Children 0-18 years living at or below 185% FPL in 1999 from U.S. Census 2000.

**This figure includes CDE's estimates of ADP in July 2002 in the Traditional, NSLP Waiver, and SBP Waiver summer food sites, including children served by year-round schools.

APPENDIX B: COUNTY-BY-COUNTY TRENDS SINCE 1999

COUNTY	All Low-income Children Eating USDA Meals in July 1999	All Low-income Children Eating USDA Meals in July 2001	All Low-income Children Eating USDA Meals in July 2002	Increase/Decrease in the Number of Kids Served in July from 2001 to 2002	Increase/Decrease in the Number of Kids Served in July from 1999 to 2002	Percentage Change from 1999 to 2002
ALAMEDA	19,158	14,839	15,433	594	-3,725	-19%
ALPINE	0	0	0	0	0	0%
AMADOR	110	127	128	1	18	16%
BUTTE	8,261	8,056	8,200	144	-61	-1%
CALVERAS	551	0	1,220	1,220	669	121%
COLUSA	0	141	955	814	955	0%
CONTRA COSTA	7,930	9,899	11,055	1,156	3,125	39%
DEL NORTE	0	518	541	23	541	0%
EL DORADO	1,184	1,232	1,286	54	102	9%
FRESNO	28,892	28,307	30,899	2,592	2,007	7%
GLENN	18	0	0	0	-18	-100%
HUMBOLDT	910	875	882	7	-28	-3%
IMPERIAL	3,510	4,160	3,988	-172	478	14%
INYO	126	144	214	70	88	70%
KERN	12,249	13,699	16,585	2,886	4,336	35%
KINGS	719	991	649	-342	-70	-10%
LAKE	752	550	688	138	-64	-9%
LASSEN	21	0	0	0	-21	-100%
LOS ANGELES	310,568	289,123	310,598	21,475	30	0%
MADERA	4,831	4,468	5,057	589	226	5%
MARIN	579	463	526	63	-53	-9%

COUNTY	All Low-income Children Eating USDA Meals in July 1999	All Low-income Children Eating USDA Meals in July 2001	All Low-income Children Eating USDA Meals in July 2002	Increase/ Decrease in the Number of Kids Served in July from 2001 to 2002	Increase/ Decrease in the Number of Kids Served in July from 1999 to 2002	Percentage Change from 1999 to 2002
MARIPOSA	0	0	0	0	0	0%
MENDOCINO	1,430	1,771	2,760	989	1,330	93%
MERCED	7,995	10,114	8,966	-1,148	971	12%
MODOC	14	21	17	-4	3	21%
MONO	37	29	0	-29	-37	-100%
MONTEREY	9,665	10,461	14,548	4,087	4,883	51%
NAPA	306	316	470	154	164	54%
NEVADA	124	170	217	47	93	75%
ORANGE	53,598	54,233	51,578	-2,655	-2,020	-4%
PLACER	1,664	1,861	1,046	-815	-618	-37%
PLUMAS	0	0	0	0	0	0%
RIVERSIDE	43,258	51,863	50,172	-1,691	6,914	16%
SACRAMENTO	25,431	33,543	35,956	2,413	10,525	41%
SAN BENITO	691	846	1,171	325	480	69%
SAN BERNARDIN O	65,433	63,675	67,327	3,652	1,894	3%
SAN DIEGO	64,109	79,673	73,380	-6,293	9,271	14%
SAN FRANCISCO	13,060	9,416	8,881	-535	-4,179	-32%
SAN JOAQUIN	15,468	18,573	23,364	4,791	7,896	51%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	1,124	1,409	1,278	-131	154	14%
SAN MATEO	3,285	2,287	3,914	1,627	629	19%
SANTA BARBARA	10,362	11,390	11,329	-61	967	9%
SANTA CLARA	18,424	19,301	22,977	3,676	4,553	25%

COUNTY	All Low-income Children Eating USDA Meals in July 1999	All Low-income Children Eating USDA Meals in July 2001	All Low-income Children Eating USDA Meals in July 2002	Increase/ Decrease in the Number of Kids Served in July from 2001 to 2002	Increase/ Decrease in the Number of Kids Served in July from 1999 to 2002	Percentage Change from 1999 to 2002
SANTA CRUZ	4,259	5,596	8,170	2,574	3,911	92%
SHASTA	1,195	1,593	1,620	27	425	36%
SIERRA	0	0	0	0	0	0%
SISKIYOU	246	181	60	-121	-186	-76%
SOLANO	7,933	8,312	6,406	-1,906	-1,527	-19%
SONOMA	1,492	1,919	2,791	872	1,299	87%
STANISLAUS	17,315	19,659	19,068	-591	1,753	10%
SUTTER	1,426	102	178	76	-1,248	-88%
TEHEMA	17	182	304	122	287	1688%
TRINITY	21	236	271	35	250	1190%
TULARE	15,084	12,572	13,884	1,312	-1,200	-8%
TUOLOMNE	34	48	43	-5	9	26%
VENTURA	12,675	13,132	14,191	1,059	1,516	12%
YOLO	2,573	3,347	3,726	379	1,153	45%
YUBA	1,539	2,317	1,139	-1,178	-400	-26%
STATE TOTALS	802,583	817,740	860,106	42,366	57,523	7%

APPENDIX C: SEAMLESS WAIVER EXAMPLES

Alum Rock Union Elementary School District (Santa Clara County)

During Summer 2002, Alum Rock Union sponsored 16 summer feeding sites under the Seamless Waiver. They partnered with the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo County, as well as with the City of San Jose, to provide technical assistance, outreach, promotion, and meals for the SFSP. For 2003, this district hopes to offer lunches under the Seamless Waiver again, as well as pilot the Universal Classroom Breakfast Program, championed by First Lady Sharon Davis.

Mary Fell

Manager, Child Nutrition Services

(408) 928-6902

mfell@alumrock.k12.ca.us

Capistrano Unified School District (Orange County)

During the Summer of 2002, Capistrano Unified offered summer meals in their district using the Seamless Waiver. Children in local elementary and middle schools, as well as those not attending summer school, were able to get a meal at 4 school sites sponsored by the school district. The district liked the ease of the program so much that they are coming on again in 2003.

Dawn Davey

(949) 489-7375

ddavey@capousd.org

Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District (Tulare County)

Cutler-Orosi has been lauded by state advocates and policy makers for implementing Universal Classroom Breakfast in elementary schools and Grab-N-Go Brunch in middle and high schools, but they also are shining their light on the SFSP. Through the Seamless Waiver, they hope to use time previously spent on paperwork to focus more on outreach and meal quality.

Robert Schram

Director, Food Services

(559) 528-4763

raschram@cutler-orosi.k12.ca.us

APPENDIX D: AUGUST GAP FILLING EXAMPLES

West Contra Costa County Unified School District (Contra Costa County)

*The West Contra Costa County Unified School District has been a SFSP sponsor for 15 years. During the summer of 2002, it was able to expand its program by participating in the Seamless Waiver. Using the money, time, and energy once spent on cumbersome paperwork, the school district staff was able to exert more effort on improving the quality and marketing of the program, including offering breakfast, snacks, and hot meals at some sites. Additionally, the school district was able to provide meals in local neighborhoods where community agencies offer enrichment activities throughout the summer, not just until summer school ended in July. Therefore, local children were able to have healthy, nutritious meals throughout the school year and the **entire** summer.*

Heidi Camorongan

(510) 620-2096

hcamorongan@wccusd.k12.ca.us

City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine (Los Angeles County)

Folks in the L-B-D? know where local kids are in the summer--at parks and recreation sites. So they bring the meals to the children. In 2002, they did extensive outreach at local WIC, Food Stamp, and check cashing offices, as well as at public housing and apartment complexes. They also enlisted support from local community organizations and leaders and were able to extend the program throughout August, feeding local kids until they stepped back into the classroom come September.

Tarah Burrows

Summer Food Coordinator, Youth Services

(562) 570-3538

tarah_burrows@ci.long-beach.ca.us

APPENDIX E: EXAMPLE OF OVERCOMING BUDGET WOES

Community Bridges (Santa Cruz County)

As local community and government agencies in Santa Cruz County have been feeling the blow of the state budget crisis, Community Bridges has stepped up as a child nutrition leader in their community. After operating as a SFSP site for many years, they became a community-based sponsor in 2002, partnering with local parks and recreation departments and vendors to serve summer meals to local children. In 2002, Community Bridges sponsored 24 SFSP sites. This year, as the number of SFSP sponsors decreases with added budget pressures, Community Bridges has been meeting with local, state, and national policy makers and advocates to demonstrate the need for meals for low-income children when school is out. Additionally, staff are actively engaged in marketing and outreach for the Food Stamp Program, the 5-A-Day Power Play Campaign, and the Latino 5-A-Day Campaign.

Albert Maldonado

Manager, Community Nutrition Program

(831) 724-4061

albertm@cbridges.org

APPENDIX F: INCOME CHART

Family income at 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

April 1, 2003 - March 31, 2004

Family Size	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$16,613	\$1,385	\$320
2	\$22,422	\$1,869	\$432
3	\$28,231	\$2,353	\$543
4	\$34,040	\$2,837	\$655
5	\$39,849	\$3,321	\$767
6	\$45,658	\$3,805	\$879
7	\$51,467	\$4,289	\$990
8	\$57,276	\$4,773	\$1,102
<i>each additional family member</i>	+\$5,809	+\$485	+\$112

APPENDIX G: AUGUST GAP MEAL DATA

Using data to identify the August Gap described in the text is difficult for the following reasons:

1. Average daily attendance data in the Summer Food Service Program for the month of August is not available.
2. Some schools begin their school year in late August, so school meal data for August is actually higher than for July.

Recognizing these problems, the following does give a good indication of the drop-off in Summer Food Service meals served during the month of August.

2002	
Summer Food Service Program Lunches Served in July	3,009,290
Summer Food Service Program Lunches Served in August	1,054,856
<hr/>	
Drop in number of meals served from July to August	1,954,434
2001	
Summer Food Service Program Lunches Served in July	4,050,529
Summer Food Service Program Lunches Served in August	1,330,503
<hr/>	
Drop in number of meals served from July to August	2,720,026

Source: USDA