

CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION



QUICK FACTS

“Too many of my students do not get regular meals when school is out of session. You can see a real learning gap at the start of the school year between the students who had enough to eat over the break and the ones who struggled.”

Yolanda Stanislaus
Principal, Francis Scott Key Middle School
Silver Spring, Maryland

NATIONAL SUMMER CHALLENGES

5 out of 6

Kids who need summer meals are not getting them

30%

Of kids from low-income families live in communities not eligible to operate open summer meals sites

43%

Of low-income families who find themselves without enough food during the summer months

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Nokidhungry.org/summer

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Summer can be the hungriest time of year for many kids from low-income families. The current summer meals program, however, does not work effectively in many communities. As a result, it only reaches a fraction of the kids who may need it.

In 2015, Congress has the opportunity to improve the summer meals program through the Child Nutrition Reauthorization process. This would ensure the program more effectively and efficiently connects low-income kids to the healthy food they need during the summer months.

CURRENT PROGRAM BARRIERS



Many kids live in communities that aren't eligible for meal sites: Organizations may operate as open summer meal sites when they are located in predominantly low-income communities. Poverty has increasingly moved into more rural and suburban areas, and today a third of kids from low-income backgrounds live outside of eligible regions.



Transportation: With school buses not operating and parents at work, many kids lack transportation to summer meal sites, especially in rural communities.



Weather: Extreme heat, thunderstorms and other severe weather can close sites, many of which operate out of doors.



Red Tape: Excessive administrative bureaucracy prevents many schools, faith-based organizations, and community groups from providing meals to kids in need.

CNR POLICY SOLUTIONS

Provide more options for summer meals delivery: Many states and communities facing specific barriers may need options beyond congregate feeding to ensure kids have access to summer meals they need.

This could include:

- Keeping successful congregate sites open and supported;
- Enabling communities to implement more efficient delivery programs that bring food to kids where they live;
- Providing low-income families with a grocery credit during the summer months, empowering parents to directly purchase the food their kids need.

Streamline the afterschool and summer meal programs into one program: Maximize efficiency, align rules and paperwork, and reduce bureaucratic burdens.

In 2015, Congress has the opportunity to improve the summer meals program so more kids can get the food they need, no matter where they live.