

[A Call to the Table]

[Ending Summer Hunger in Washington]



Sydney Fang
Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow

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United Way of King County

The mission of United Way of King County (UWKC) is to “bring caring people together to give, volunteer, and take action to help people in need and solve our community’s toughest challenges.” UWKC has been a leader in the fight against childhood hunger since 2009. UWKC works with business, government, the media, and nonprofit organizations to meet community needs.

Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship

The Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program is a social justice program that trains, inspires, and sustains leaders. The Program supports a diversity of local and national approaches to eliminate hunger, poverty and oppression and nurture an innovative national network of creative and inspiring change agents who share our vision of a just world. The Emerson Program seeks to craft successful and mutually beneficial partnerships between Fellows and Partner Organizations while developing a new generation of hunger and poverty leaders.

About the Author

Sydney Fang, Emerson National Hunger Fellow

Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, Sydney graduated in 2012 from the University of California, Berkeley with a degree in public health and a minor in public policy. Sydney has also organized monolingual Chinese homecare workers and served as a commissioner on the City of Berkeley’s Community Health Commission. She was also a Public Policy International Affairs Fellow at the University California, Berkeley in 2012. At the Greenlining Institute, Sydney conducted foundational research around increasing transparency, accountability, and upstream investment in community benefit spending among not-for-profit hospitals.

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A Call to the Table: Ending Summer Hunger in Washington

Executive Summary

When summer starts, thousands of low-income youth in Washington lose access to school breakfast, lunch and snacks that they depend on when school is in session. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP or summer meals) is a federal nutrition program that meets the needs of children under age 18 who are eligible for free or reduced meals in school. The program, which is administered by the Office of the Superintendent of Instruction (OSPI), relies on schools and community organizations to act as summer meal sponsors and sites. Unfortunately, the program has only reached 1 in 10 eligible students. Now is the time for the community stakeholders to come together to fill this gap.

While efforts among Washington's anti-hunger advocates and community partners to increase access to summer meals are some of the most organized and well-planned in the nation, we must take steps to make these efforts even better. Childhood hunger is a manifestation and a source of many other community problems, such as economic instability and poor health. It is time for a strategic mobilization of partners from different corners of the community to address the community-wide issue of summer hunger. School districts, OSPI, elected officials, advocates, community organizations, funders, and families all bring something valuable to the table. The Five Opportunities for Growth outlined in this report can inform strategies moving forward to increase summer meals participation.

5 Opportunities for Growth for Summer Meals in Washington

Funding

Funding challenges are a barrier to operating a successful summer meals program, especially for new sponsors that lack start-up funds and rural programs that cannot afford transportation. While the federal reimbursement rate should be enough to sustain the program, funding for start-up, transportation, and enrichment programs can better support programs' growth. New funders and not-for-profit hospital community benefit programs could fill the need for funding.

Collaboration

Summer hunger is a complex problem. A problem that is at the intersection of many different community issues requires the collaboration of many different partners. The Summer Meals Workgroup can strengthen existing efforts to reach eligible families and communities at unique entry points when new partners statewide, such as housing, public health, parent-teacher associations, and organizations with strong relationships in communities of color, participate in summer meals discussions and planning.

Coordination

Each partner brings different expertise, responsibilities, and resources to the table. Clear and deliberate coordination is critical to making the best use of existing and new partnerships. A strategic plan for summer meals can offer direction to planning and provide a benchmark for evaluation of efforts. The Washington Summer Meals Workgroup and key partners can commit to concrete actions that will move this plan forward.

Local cohesion

The success of summer meals depends on the ability of communities to step up and respond to need. Local organizations are best connected to both families in need and local networks that are responding to this need already, such as Community Action Partnership (CAP) agencies. Advocates can identify local champions to maintain sustained year-round discussions, measure progress, and coordinate efforts in high-need communities.

Outreach and community engagement

A successful summer meals program in Washington needs more widespread and targeted outreach; this will ensure that families and youth receive frequent and consistent messaging from familiar and credible sources. Low awareness among families continues to be a persistent barrier to access. In addition to increased outreach efforts, the summer meals program requires more information from eligible families to ensure that the program reflects the community it is meant to serve. Localities can make more deliberate efforts to understand families' needs, integrate them into programs, and learn from families why they may not be participating. This kind of feedback and inclusion of families can help them become more invested in the program, develop stronger trust between the program and families, and ultimately increase participation. Schools can initiate these avenues for feedback through surveys that are a part of the *National School Lunch Program* application and meetings with organizations that work with youth of color.

Introduction

When summer starts, thousands of low-income youth in Washington lose access to school breakfast, lunch and snacks that they depend on when school is in session. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP or summer meals) is a federal nutrition program that meets the needs of children under age 18 who are *eligible for free or reduced-priced meals* in school. The program, which is administered by the Office of the Superintendent of Instruction (OSPI), relies on schools and community organizations to act as Summer Meal sponsors and sites.

Washington ranks 40th in the 50 states and District of Columbia in summer meals accessⁱ; improving access to the program is imperative, especially because Washington is also the 15th hungriest stateⁱⁱ. Statewide, summer meals reach only 1 in 10 low-income youth. This leaves over 434,000 kids statewide vulnerable to hunger during the summerⁱⁱⁱ. Losing this access comes at a great cost. Hunger has detrimental effects on youth, and summer meals is a powerful opportunity to combat *summer learning loss*, provide increased *food security*, promote cognitive development^{iv}, and advance positive health outcomes among low-income children. Now is the time for community partners to come together and meet this need.

Summer Hunger

Washington

10% Participation Rate

(compared with NSLP)



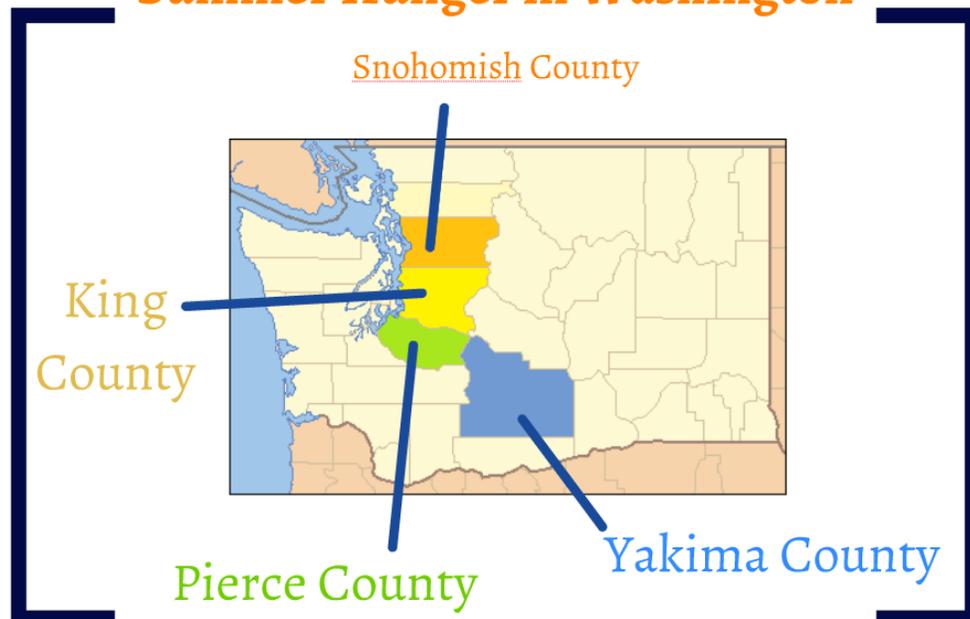
While efforts among Washington's anti-hunger advocates and community partners to increase access to summer meals are some of the most organized and well-planned in the nation, they must adopt new approaches to make these efforts even better. Childhood hunger is a manifestation of many different community problems; this necessitates partners from different sectors to work towards a solution. School districts, OSPI, elected officials, advocates, community organizations, funders, and families all bring something valuable to the table. It is time for a strategic mobilization of partners from different corners of the community to address the community-wide issue of summer hunger.

Purpose and Methods

This report highlights five opportunities to increase summer meals participation in Washington. Interviews with summer meals *sponsors* and *sites* throughout Washington provided insight into their limitations and needs for an effective program. Research and information sharing that inform these recommendations come from collaborative discussions with anti-hunger advocates and OSPI, which make up the Summer Meals Work Group, as well as key stakeholders in states with high summer meals *participation*.

This report also offers local, target profiles of high-need counties (King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Yakima, Counties) that can benefit from strategic partnerships and resource mobilization. These profiles demonstrate the need for summer meals in the county, present goals for improvement, and identify new partners and what they can offer to the effort.

Summer Hunger in Washington



Funding

Funding challenges are a significant barrier to operating a successful summer meals program, especially for new sponsors that lack start-up funds and rural programs that cannot afford transportation. While the federal reimbursement rate should be enough to sustain the program, funding for start-up, transportation, and enrichment programs can better support programs' growth. Funders and hospital community benefit programs can provide grant dollars to fill this need.

- **New funding partners throughout the state can provide much needed investment in summer meals.** Funders are largely unaware of the issue of summer hunger, and education from active peer organizations, such as United Way of King County (UWKC) and School's Out Washington, will increase philanthropic support for summer meal programs.
- **Existing grant makers for summer meals sponsors** (UWKC, School's Out Washington, YMCA, Washington Dairy Council) **can use a [sustainability assessment](#)** similar to that of Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon for all grantees. This tool promotes improvement on issues of sustainability and highlights benchmarks, such as cultural competency, community feedback, and outreach strategy. This assessment provides standards for sites and sponsors to strive for, as well as a tool for evaluation. Grant makers can use the tool to give individualized recommendations to the sponsor. The assessment will also make it easier for sponsors to evaluate their strengths and opportunities. This tool should also be included in the Summer Meals Resource Toolkit for Professionals¹.
- **Community benefit programs from not-for-profit hospitals are an opportunity to provide funding to summer meals programs.** Not-for-profit hospitals, in return for their tax-exempt status, must operate a community benefit budget that is devoted to promoting health in their community. While health is often associated with what happens within hospital walls, health outcomes are more often dictated by where we live, learn, and play. Addressing hunger among low-income children and providing enrichment activities for them in the summer are crucial contributions to long-term community health. Anti-hunger advocates and community organizations can partner with not-for-profit hospitals to ensure that summer meals programs can receive investments that improve community health. While community benefit programs can provide funding, anti-hunger organizations can provide more support and technical assistance to sponsors and sites. This added funding and guidance will ensure that programs reach the youth who need it most and provide a health benefit as well.
- **The One Million Meals Campaign is an example of how funders have a unique ability to amplify summer meals expansion efforts.** The United Way of King County spearheaded the two-year campaign to increase countywide summer meals participation.
 - The Campaign incorporated:
 - Grants for summer meals sponsors to fund start-up costs, staffing, and activities
 - 37 Campaign Corps members, high-school and college-aged summer staff that provided outreach support, staffing, and activities for sites
 - Targeted outreach within high-need neighborhoods
 - The impact of the Campaign in its first summer (2013) includes:
 - 106,000 more meals served in King County
 - Significant gains in meals served among grantee sponsors:
 - Des Moines Area Food Bank saw a 200 percent increase in meals served
 - Hunger Intervention Program saw a 500 percent increase in meals served

¹ The Toolkit is an online resource guide that centralizes resources and information for running effective summer meal programs; the toolkit is maintained by WithinReach and can be found [here](#).

Collaboration

Summer hunger is a complex problem. A problem that is at the intersection of many different issues requires the collaboration of many different partners. The Washington Summer Meals Work Group is among the most organized in the nation and brings together leaders from philanthropy, advocacy, emergency food, as well as the state agency that administers summer meals, OSPI. The Summer Meals Work Group can become even more effective with new partners, such as housing, public health, parent-teacher associations, and community organizations. Involving new partners statewide in summer meals discussions and planning can strengthen existing efforts to reach eligible families and communities at unique entry points.



- **Statewide association groups** (County Health officials, Housing, School Nutrition Association, etc.) **should be involved in the Washington Summer Meals Work Group to plan for more local level engagement among these partners.** These groups all have advocacy agendas that potentially can support initiatives to increase resources for summer meals, as well as legislation to increase staffing and capacity at OSPI for program administration.

Partners to consider	What they can bring to the effort
<p>Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA)</p>	<p>WSPHA can engage its organizational members, which include local public health departments, as well as the Washington Association of Community and Migrant Health Centers. Their engagement will encourage more collaboration on a local level, especially around outreach</p>
<p>Association of Washington Housing Authorities (AWHA)</p>	<p>AWHA is an organizational platform for information sharing and education among housing authorities in Washington. AWHA is connected with local housing authorities, which support the target community of summer meals. These local connections can bring more resources into outreach and site recruitment</p>
<p>Washington School Nutrition Association (WSNA)</p>	<p>WSNA is a statewide association that includes school nutrition directors. Connecting with their network, which often hosts meetings and workshops, can be a direct way to engage schools, provide technical assistance, and support school districts to become summer meals sponsors or vendors</p>

Washington State Parent Teacher Association
(WSPTA)

WSPTA maintains regional contacts with Parent Teacher Associations, and a partnership with WSPTA can build strategic relationships with eligible schools and districts for volunteer recruitment. Local PTAs are another voice in the school to build support for the program. Summer meal efforts are also a nuanced way to approach the National PTA's "Healthy Lifestyles" program and another opportunity to collaborate.

- **Engaging leadership from the governor's office can provide greater accountability, support, and leverage to summer meal efforts**
 - In Indiana, the Department of Education began a reading initiative that connected with community agencies to do both reading programming and provide summer meals. This initiative offered more support to sponsors because of increased support from DOE to provide programming to accompany the meal.
 - A potential stakeholder from Governor's office to connect to the effort is the [Student Achievement Council](#), whose attention on students' academic success can provide opportunities to combine programming with summer meals.

Coordination

Each partner brings different expertise, responsibilities, and resources to the table. Clear and deliberate coordination is critical to ensuring the best use of existing and new relationships and the resources they can offer. A summer meals strategic plan can offer direction to planning and provide a benchmark for evaluation of efforts. The Summer Meals Work Group and key partners can commit to concrete actions that will move this plan forward.

- **Workgroup members mentioned the need to establish clear action items and assign responsibilities for these items at the end of each meeting to ensure follow-through on discussion**
 - Develop, pilot, and evaluate the impact of a comprehensive plan to improve participation in summer and after school meal programs in Washington. The plan should include ambitious, measurable goals.
 - Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon facilitates the Oregon Youth Meals Alliance and their goal is to create a 3-year plan to increase statewide participation to 30% for SFSP and 10% for Afterschool Meal Program (CACFP). The plan will be developed in year 1, piloted in year 2, and will be evaluated in year 3.
- **Deeper coordination between OSPI and advocates around recruiting new sponsors each year is important**
 - United States Department of Agriculture Federal Nutrition Service (USDA FNS) encourages state agencies to facilitate relationships between school nutrition directors, superintendents and local governments. While OSPI sends out letters or emails to eligible school districts, advocates can help facilitate deeper connections and increased follow-up

- Food nutrition directors and superintendents are key contacts, and in addition to OSPI’s email outreach to these key stakeholders, OSPI can share the list of contacts they have made with the rest of the workgroup for more follow-up.
 - The workgroup can follow up via phone calls and in-person meetings with contacts made by OSPI to create more urgency around summer meals efforts.
 - The workgroup can also offer additional combined capacity to recruit from multiple angles, aside from the food service directors and superintendents. Workgroup members can continue to take on specific regions or school districts and connect with elected officials, school libraries, parent teacher associations, community learning centers and migrant coordinators to initiate meetings.
 - In Vermont, invitations go to programming coordinators, principals, school business managers (who can maintain administrative/finances) and food service directors.
 - The Summer Meals Work Group can also follow-up OSPI outreach with additional resources such as the WA Summer Meals Resource Toolkit.
- **Consistent with new SFSP policy from USDA, OSPI can contract out any responsibilities** (such as recruitment, outreach, pre-approval meetings, etc.). This offers new potential and flexibility to make best use of relationships and networks throughout the state
 - Some responsibilities that OSPI can elect to contract out are:
 - Social media marketing
 - Developing advertising materials
 - Executing events
- **OSPI child nutrition field staff should have strong relationships with sponsors; alternative staffing models and practices can facilitate deeper trust between field staff and sponsors.**
 - In Florida, regionalized summer staff makes them more logistically available to address concerns.
 - Regional staff can also make an effort to be involved in community forums. Sponsors will trust staff and feel comfortable asking questions; staff will learn more about the community where the program operates, such as the challenges and environment. This will enable staff to give better technical assistance that is consistent with the needs of the sponsor and the community.
 - Field staff can be the same for programs year round, between programs. This will give them a good sense of sponsors’ needs and circumstances. In Indiana, this staffing model has enabled them to connect NSLP with SFSP and SFSP with CACFP. Field staff members are able to communicate with the SFSP director, who contacts school districts directly to recruit them as program sponsors. In Wisconsin, SFSP is a part of the same team as CACFP staff, which ensures good communication throughout the year.
 - Staff can have multiple opportunities to interact and support sponsors
 - Assigned staff can do “pre-approval visits” after training
 - This meeting will take place to approve sponsorship, and field staff should address candidates’ concerns, make them feel comfortable and encourage them to ask questions. In Indiana, field consultants’ encouragement of clear and consistent communication, coupled with openness to looking at sponsors’ specific requests within program guidelines, has been crucial to sponsor retention
 - Specialists can have a list of topics to reinforce at the visit. The trainees might not be responsible for running the program. Individual follow-up

after the training initiated by OSPI can make sure that sites have the knowledge to run the program. This meeting can be a brief overview where specialists show them websites, how to access forms, and helpful resources, such as the Summer Meals Resource Toolkit and the OSPI website.

- At the end of summer, staff can do an hour-long call with their assigned sponsors to address concerns and offer feedback to one another
 - For increased sponsor retention, USDA FNS also encourages OSPI to solicit feedback from sponsors regarding their specific training needs. Sponsor and site reviews can also inform areas for focus training.
- **Training and events are an opportunity to promote growth, as well as teach program rules**
 - A “Summer Meals Summit” or “Kick-off” for interested organizations, returning sponsors, elected officials, and other stakeholders builds excitement and provides more exposure for the program. In Minnesota, returning sponsors had other opportunities to be engaged by sharing their experiences and best practices.
 - Community building and mentorship
 - This “kick-off” also promotes community among sponsors and encourages them to connect with each other to give advice and collaborate. OSPI should encourage new sponsors and returning sponsors to contact each other. Successful sponsors in Washington have identified strong networks as a key to their success. The workgroup can reinforce this by establishing formal mentorships between new and old sponsors and connecting partnered sponsors at the kick-off.
 - In Florida, their kick-off is a collaboration between DOE and Florida Impact. The two are able to present alongside each other, and Florida Impact provides lunch for all attendees. The same approach in Vermont presents a united front and to introduce sponsors to the full range of resources that are available to support them. Video conference technology is available to connect simultaneous events throughout the state and could be a good alternative for those who aren’t able to attend to view the program at a later time.
 - Training should also encourage sponsors to adopt new sites and share updated information about eligible sites. This is an opportunity to share the county factsheets² with sponsors. This expansion also requires collaboration among sponsors.

Local cohesion

The success of summer meals depends on the ability of communities to take initiative and respond to need. Local partners, such as schools, CAP agencies, and even local governments, are well-connected to both families and local networks. Advocates can identify local champions to maintain sustained year-round discussions, measure progress, and coordinate efforts in high-need communities. County roadmaps at the end of the report offer recommendations for new partners and set goals for King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Yakima Counties.

² County factsheets, developed by WithinReach, offer a snapshot of summer hunger in each county, listing all sponsors, sites, number of days open, number of meals served, and eligible school districts.

- **Local and regional workgroups can offer additional support to sponsors by coordinating between sponsors and reducing competition.** These workgroups also offer a network for sponsors to learn from each other. A convener can bring focus and dedicated support to summer meals efforts.
 - An example of a robust local workgroup is one convened by Hunger Taskforce in the Milwaukee region:
 - The convening is composed of meal providers (daycare agencies, school districts, CAP agencies) and coordinates efforts of the providers. They plan the location of sites, reduce duplication of efforts, identify gaps, and find ways to bring activities to sites. When sites close, there is clear communication around how to redirect youth to other sites.
 - During the summer, meal providers report numbers, progress, and concerns weekly to Hunger Taskforce, who hires a summer intern to look over paperwork and make sure all meal providers submit invoices for the supper program.
 - Hunger Taskforce also distributes funding from Kohls for these meal providers to remain open in August and operate privately-funded supper programs.
 - Hunger Taskforce also recruits volunteers for sites, provides play and activity equipment, and checks out a cooler to all sites for the summer.
 - Local workgroups that include sponsors can ensure that procedures and schedules can accommodate them

Outreach and Community Engagement

A successful summer meals program in Washington needs more widespread and targeted outreach; this will ensure that families and youth receive frequent and consistent messaging from familiar and credible sources. Low awareness among families continues to be a persistent barrier to access.

The summer meals program also needs more information from eligible families to ensure that the program is meeting their needs. Localities can make more deliberate efforts to understand families' preferences, integrate them into programs, and learn from families why they may not be participating. This kind of feedback and inclusion of families can help them become more invested in the program and develop stronger trust. Schools can initiate these avenues for feedback through surveys that are a part of the NSLP application, as well as meetings with organizations that work with youth of color.

After interviewing summer meals sponsors around the state, community engagement and feedback from families was an area lacking attention from sponsors, community partners, and agencies alike. While the focus and priority of stakeholders is "getting meals out the door," or simply outreaching to families about meal sites and times, there is limited knowledge around who the program is not reaching. Stakeholders need more information from families to ensure that the summer meals program is accessible and relevant to the families that it is meant to serve.

Now, more than ever, the summer meals program must speak to the needs of low-income families. Increasing summer meals participation means that the program must be sensitive to the needs of the students, who are predominately youth of color and students with limited English proficiency^v. Cultural and linguistic barriers keep many youth from receiving adequate nutrition during the summer. The effectiveness and sustainability of the summer meals program in Washington depends on its ability to include and engage the families and youth that benefit most from the program.

In most cases, schools that are eligible for summer meals sites have a higher representation of youth of color than those that are not eligible^{vi}. Youth of color are also at higher risk of suffering food insecurity, poor health outcomes^{vii}, and academic challenges^{viii}; ensuring that these youth have access to summer meals is critical to fighting this trend. Furthermore, the United States is in the midst of a demographic transition with 46 percent of today's youth being people of color^{ix}; Washington is no exception. Washington's populations of color have increased from 20.6 percent to 27.3 percent between 2000 and 2010^x. This shift especially requires the planning of the summer meals program to change as well.

- **Formal means of feedback and engagement are required to collect key information to improve the program**
 - Site level
 - Sites should be staffed by people that the community trusts. Successful sponsors have mentioned relationship-building with youth as a factor that improves participation. Sponsors should make deliberate efforts to recruit staff from the communities where sites are located. This can mean recruiting students from eligible schools or staff with relevant language skills that are suited to the community.
 - Sites are another place to collect data around who is accessing summer meals. While some sponsors have offered optional surveys with small response rates, sites can also offer incentives, such as a small prize or punch card, for youth to come back with a completed survey.
 - Surveys should go beyond food preferences or even outreach strategy; they can be an opportunity to find out answers to other important questions. For example:
 - Why don't your friends come to enjoy the meal?
 - What kind of activities do you like?
 - Community level
 - A Community Needs Assessment in Indiana provided more information for advocates to target their efforts around summer meals, including:
 - What are some activities youth need?
 - What are challenges families are dealing with
 - A Child Hunger Corps member at Gleaners Food Bank in Indiana conducted focus groups of diverse community stakeholders who are in touch with low-income families, including:
 - social services providers
 - school staff
 - Some parent surveys were administered through the backpack program
 - Collaboration with food service directors allowed surveyors to connect with parents of all students eligible for free and reduced meals and learn barriers to access

Conclusion

The summer meals program is a key opportunity to ensure that every young person has adequate nutrition in the summer months. However, low participation in the program means that nearly 434,000^{xi} low-income youth statewide have been unable to benefit from the summer meals program. The success of this program is only possible when schools, state agencies, elected officials, funders, local organizations, community leaders, and families affected by hunger are all at the table. The summer meals program plays an important role in reducing health disparities and the educational opportunity gap among Washington's future leaders, especially young people of color. Strategic efforts to increase funding, collaboration, coordination, local cohesion, and community engagement are critical, not just to ending childhood hunger, but also to the future of Washington.

King County

2013 Summer Meals

The Summer Meals Gap

In King County, **99,330 students** are eligible for free and reduced meals during the school year. The summer meals program is meant to feed these students during the summer when school is out. However, the average daily attendance of summer meals (an estimate of how many students might be receiving meals) is *only 8,004 meals per day*.

Summer meal sites best meet the need of young people when they are open for 40 days or longer, a practice that is recommended by the Food Research and Action Center. This length builds consistency and ensures that meals are available for all summer long. Furthermore, when sites are serving enough meals, lengthening operating days can also make the program more sustainable.

- Number of days sites open:
 - **95 sites** were open **40 or more days**
 - **190 sites** were open **less than 40 days**

Race and Ethnicity Data

Now, more than ever, the summer meals program must speak to the needs of low-income families. In most King County school districts, families speak more than 100 languages³; in South King County, this number is nearly double⁴. Cultural and language barriers keep many youth from receiving adequate nutrition during the summer. *Communities of color are now the majority in King County*, and special planning and consideration of the needs of each young person will ensure that every young person can access summer meals.

Race and Ethnicity of youth grades P-12 (School Year 2014)

Race and Ethnicity	Number of Youth	Percentage of Total Youth
Latino of any race(s)	44,834	16.3
American Indian / Alaskan Native	2,084	0.8
Asian	45,836	16.7
Black / African American	23,199	8.5
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	3,742	1.4
White	133,747	48.7
Two or More Races	21,017	7.7
Populations of Color	140,712	52.3

Office of the Superintendent of Instruction. (December 2013). *October Federal & State Ethnicity/Race Enrollment Reports by County Level*.

³ Seattle Times (February 2011). *Shifting Populations Changes in South King County*. Retrieved from: http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2014314512_censussouthking24m.html

⁴ The Roadmap Project (February 2014). *Our Region*. Retrieved from: <http://www.roadmapproject.org/the-project/our-region/>

Goal for 2014
Serve 40,000 more meals in 2014

How to reach this goal in 2014

Opportunity	Strategy	Stakeholders	Timeline
Funding	Require grantees to complete sustainability assessment tool by the end of summer and encourage them to use best practices to reach more youth Raise \$20,000 from funding partners	UWKC, School's Out Washington	February-March
Collaboration	Connect with new partners across King County	UWKC, City of Seattle, (*See below for new partners)	February-April
Coordination	Develop a strategic plan for the next three years around increasing summer meals participation. This plan should clearly delegate responsibilities for each partner	Summer meals Work Group	February
Local cohesion	Maintain a "hub" of King County sponsors in order to measure progress, coordinate efforts, and provide a supportive network for summer meals sponsors	UWKC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AmeriCorps VISTAs are ideal to coordinate this hub • New OSPI data reporting system can facilitate weekly progress measurement 	All summer
Community engagement and feedback	**Community-based programs and partners that work with the community should also offer their insight for sponsors and sites for program planning and outreach that best accommodates the specific needs of youth from their community. All partners can include the summer meals finder "widget" on their websites	School districts in King County can administer surveys to eligible students UWKC can host a community convening to learn more about communities' needs and preferences	February-May

New Partner*	What they can offer to the effort
<p>King County Employment and Education Resources</p> <p>Seattle Youth Employment Program</p>	<p>Youth services can be an outreach partner to youth that are more than likely eligible, as well as serve as plug into OMM as a recruiter of Campaign Corp members who are familiar with their communities.</p> <p>Adult services could train and provide staffing for school districts whose nutrition staff do not want to work during the summer</p>
<p>King County Public Health Seattle Nutrition Action Consortium (SNAC)</p> <p>Promotora Program</p>	<p>SNAC can be an outreach partner within Seattle Public Schools.</p> <p>The Promotora program can also be a trusted outreach partner within the Latino community</p>
<p>Group Health</p>	<p>Group Health can fund summer meals using their Community Benefits spending. Summer meals and alleviating summer hunger is consistent with their implementation plan for Community Benefits.</p> <p>GroupHealth could have the potential to be a vendor as well.</p>
<p>El Centro de La Raza**</p>	<p>This partner already operates a site and can provide more support for outreach to their constituency, as well as collaborate with other sites or programs to provide programming for youth. UWKC should also recruit Corps members from El Centro’s youth programs.</p>
<p>Para Los Ninos**</p>	<p>This partner already operates a site and can utilize its relationships with South King County schools and Latino families to conduct better outreach about programs.</p>
<p>Sea Mar Community Health Center**</p>	<p>Sea Mar can provide support in outreach, particularly among WIC users, as well as through their other community programs (ex: Reach Out and Reach, Soccer program). These program coordinators (Community HealthCorps) can also partner with sites to offer programming</p>
<p>ACRS**</p>	<p>ACRS can promote the program among their clients through their referrals, as well as their food bank and emergency food programs.</p>
<p>Horn of Africa Services**</p>	<p>This partner can support outreach efforts by connecting with parents and youth in their programs.</p>

Pierce County

2013 Summer Meals

The Summer Meals Gap

In Pierce County, **60,681 students** are eligible for Free and Reduced Meals during the school year. The Summer Meals Program is meant to feed these students during the summer when school is out. However, the average daily attendance of summer meals (an estimate of how many students might be receiving meals) is *only* **3,582 meals per day**.

Summer meal sites best meet the need of young people when they are open for 40 days or longer, a practice that is recommended by the Food Research and Action Center. This length builds consistency and ensures that meals are available for all summer long. Furthermore, when sites are serving enough meals, lengthening operating days can also make the program more sustainable.

- Number of days sites open:
 - **33 sites** were open **40 or more days**
 - **56 sites** were open **less than 40 days**

Race and Ethnicity Data

Now, more than ever, the summer meals program must speak to the needs of low-income families. This is particularly true for youth of color and students with limited English proficiency. Cultural and language barriers keep many youth from receiving adequate nutrition during the summer. Special planning and consideration of the needs of each young person are crucial to improving participation.

Race and Ethnicity of youth grades P-12 (School Year 2014)

Race and Ethnicity	Number of Youth	Percentage of Total Youth
Latino of any race(s)	20,507	15.9
American Indian / Alaskan Native	1,508	1.2
Asian	7,516	5.8
Black / African American	11,821	9.2
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	2,675	2.1
White	73,658	57.2
Two or More Races	11,138	8.6

Office of the Superintendent of Instruction. (December 2013). *October Federal & State Ethnicity/Race Enrollment Reports by County Level*

Goal for 2014

Serve 20,000 more meals
--20 sites add another meal or snack

How to reach this goal in 2014

Opportunity	Strategy	Stakeholders in workgroup and beyond	Timeline
Funding	Require grantees to complete sustainability assessment tool by the end of summer and encourage them to use best practices to reach more youth Raise \$20,000 from funding partners	UWKC-United Way of Pierce County, The Greater Tacoma Area Community Foundation	February-March
Collaboration	Connect with new partners across Pierce County	Metropolitan Development Council (MDC) (*See below for new partners)	February-April
Coordination	Develop a strategic plan for the next three years around increasing summer meals participation. This plan should clearly delegate responsibilities for each partner	Summer Meals workgroup	February
Local cohesion	Maintain a “hub” of Pierce County sponsors in order to measure progress, coordinate efforts, and provide a supportive network for summer meals sponsors	United Way of Pierce County, MDC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New OSPI data reporting system can facilitate weekly progress measurement 	All summer
Community engagement and feedback	**Community-based programs and partners that work with the community should also offer their insight for sponsors and sites for program planning and outreach that best accommodates the specific needs of youth from their community. All partners can include the summer meals finder “widget” on their websites	School districts in Pierce County can administer surveys to eligible students MDC can host a community convening to learn more about communities’ needs and preferences	February-May

New Partner	What they can offer to the effort
<u>Pierce County Community Action Program</u>	Community Connections is a County department that facilitates connections to services. The Nutrition program area, which consists of nutrition education programs, can support summer meals as an outreach partner. Community Connections also partners with Tahoma Food Policy Council and

	Action Communities for Health
<u>Metropolitan Development Council (MDC)</u>	MDC maintains strategic partnerships throughout the community with schools, government, funders, and business. These relationships make it an ideal convener and local champion to initiate discussion around summer hunger.
<u>Pierce County Housing Authority</u>	The Housing Authority can be an outreach partner and can make their eligible housing developments available as sites.
<u>St. Francis Hospital</u>	This partner could provide funding as a part of their “community-building activity” investments
<u>Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department</u>	Increased involvement and planning for summer meals on the part of the health department aligns with their Community Health Improvement Plan. Relevant program areas include Built Environment and School Health Improvement. The Department also has a robust School Nutrition program that offers technical assistance to schools.
<u>Sea Mar Community Health Center</u> **	Sea Mar can provide support in outreach, particularly among WIC users, as well as through their other community programs (ex: Reach Out and Reach, Soccer program). These program coordinators (Community HealthCorps) can also partner with sites to offer programming
<u>Centro Latino</u> **	This partner can provide more support for outreach to their constituency, as well as collaborate with other sites or programs to provide programming for youth.
<u>Tacoma Community House</u> **	This partner provides services to refugees, immigrants, and English speaking adults and youth; it could provide more support in outreach. It operates several youth programs and could collaborate with sites to offer programming, especially to teens.
<u>Asia Pacific Cultural Center (APCC)</u> **	APCC can provide insight into the needs of their constituency. It is also a potential site because it operates summer programming.
<u>Chinese Community Center</u> **	This organization has been a site in the past and can engage its constituents to provide feedback that shapes how programs operate.

Snohomish County

2013 Summer Meals

The Summer Meals Gap

In Snohomish County, **41,459 students** are eligible for Free and Reduced Meals during the school year. The Summer Meals Program is meant to feed these students during the summer when school is out. However, the average daily attendance of summer meals (an estimate of how many students might be receiving meals) is *only 2,704 meals per day*.

Summer meal sites best meet the need of young people when they are open for 40 days or longer, a practice that is recommended by the Food Research and Action Center. This length builds consistency and ensures that meals are available for all summer long. Furthermore, when sites are serving enough meals, lengthening operating days can also make the program more sustainable.

- Number of days sites open:
 - **10 sites** were open 40+ days in 2013
 - **35 sites** were open <40 days in 2013

Race and Ethnicity Data

Snohomish County ranks third in the state for populations of color growth. Now, more than ever, the summer meals program must speak to the needs of low-income families. This is particularly true for youth of color and students with limited English proficiency. Cultural and language barriers keep many youth from receiving adequate nutrition during the summer. Special planning and consideration of the special needs and preferences of each young person will ensure that every young person can access summer meals.

Race and Ethnicity of youth grades P-12 (School Year 2014)

Race and Ethnicity	Number of Youth	Percentage of Total Youth
Latino of any race(s)	18,273	16.8
American Indian / Alaskan Native	1,409	1.3
Asian	9,093	8.3
Black / African American	3,572	3.3
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	736	0.7
White	68,358	62.7
Two or More Races	7,627	7.0

Office of the Superintendent of Instruction. (December 2013). *October Federal & State Ethnicity/Race Enrollment Reports by County Level.*

Goal for 2014
 Serve 15,000 more meals
 —9 sites add another meal or snack

How to reach this goal in 2014

Opportunity	Strategy	Stakeholders	Timeline
Funding	<p>Require grantees to complete sustainability assessment tool by the end of summer and encourage them to use best practices to reach more youth</p> <p>Raise \$20,000 from funding partners</p>	UWKC, United Way of Snohomish County, School's Out Washington	February-March
Collaboration	Connect with new partners across Snohomish County	United Way, Snohomish County Community Action Partnership (*See below for new partners)	February-April
Coordination	Develop a strategic plan for the next three years around increasing summer meals participation. This plan should clearly delegate responsibilities for each partner	Summer Meals workgroup	February
Local cohesion	Maintain a "hub" of Snohomish County sponsors in order to measure progress, coordinate efforts, and provide a supportive network for summer meals sponsors	<p>United Way of Snohomish County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AmeriCorps VISTAs are ideal to coordinate this hub • New OSPI data reporting system can facilitate weekly progress measurement 	All summer
Community engagement and feedback	<p>**Community-based programs and partners that work with the community should also offer their insight for sponsors and sites for program planning and outreach that best accommodates the specific needs of youth from their community.</p> <p>All partners can include the summer meals finder "widget" on their websites</p>	<p>School districts in Snohomish County can administer surveys to eligible students</p> <p>United Way can host a community convening to learn more about communities' needs and preferences</p>	February-May

New Partner	What they can offer to the effort
Snohomish County Community Action Partnership	The CAP agency can help to outreach eligible families that are already connected with

	their programs. Furthermore, because of their relationships with other service providers, they help convene other organizations.
<u>Snohomish County Housing Authority</u>	The housing authority is well connected with families that are eligible for free and reduced meals. The housing authority potentially could become a site, as well a strong outreach partner.
<u>United Way of Snohomish County</u>	The United Way can bring its strategic partnership with community organizations and grantees to promote community engagement. United Way can also bring new leadership to the summer meals effort by offering funding and technical assistance to sponsors.
<u>Providence Medical Center Everett</u>	The community benefits program at Providence Medical Center can be a new source of funding for summer meals. In addition to grant funding, the medical center could also provide targeted outreach to patients.
<u>Snohomish Health District</u>	The Health District can integrate outreach into their roll-out of the WIC program.

Yakima County

2013 Summer Meals

The Summer Meals Gap

In Yakima County, **37,140 students** are eligible for Free and Reduced Meals during the school year. The Summer Meals Program is meant to feed these students during the summer when school is out. However, the average daily attendance of summer meals (an estimate of how many students might be receiving meals) is *only* **2,886 meals per day**.

Summer meal sites best meet the need of young people when they are open for 40 days or longer, a practice that is recommended by the Food Research and Action Center. This length builds consistency and ensures that meals are available for all summer long. Furthermore, when sites are serving enough meals, lengthening operating days can also make the program more sustainable.

- Number of days sites open:
 - **4 sites** were open **40 or more days**
 - **40 sites** were open **less than 40 days**

Race and Ethnicity Data

Now, more than ever, the summer meals program must speak to the needs of low-income families. This is particularly true for youth of color and students with limited English proficiency. Cultural and language barriers keep many youth from receiving adequate nutrition during the summer. *Communities of color are the majority in Yakima*. Planning and consideration of the special needs of each young person will ensure that every young person can access summer meals.

Race and Ethnicity of youth grades P-12 (School Year 2014)

Race and Ethnicity	Number of Youth	Percentage of Total Youth
Hispanic / Latino of any race(s)	35,163	66.7
American Indian / Alaskan Native	2,136	4.1
Asian	313	0.6
Black / African American	273	0.5
Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander	24	0
White	13,743	26.1
Two or More Races	1,077	2
Populations of Color	38,986	74.0

Office of the Superintendent of Instruction. (December 2013). *October Federal & State Ethnicity/Race Enrollment Reports by County Level*.

Goal for 2014
15 total sites open 40+ days

How to reach this goal in 2014

Opportunity	Strategy	Stakeholders	Timeline
Funding	<p>Require grantees to complete sustainability assessment tool by the end of summer and encourage them to use best practices to reach more youth</p> <p>Raise \$20,000 from funding partners</p>	School's Out Washington	February-March
Collaboration	Connect with new partners across Yakima County	School's Out Washington, YMCA (*See below for new partners)	February-April
Coordination	Develop a strategic plan for the next three years around increasing summer meals participation. This plan should clearly delegate responsibilities for each partner	Summer Meals Work Group	February
Local cohesion	Maintain a "hub" of Yakima County sponsors in order to measure progress, coordinate efforts, and provide a supportive network for summer meals sponsors	<p>OIC of Washington</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AmeriCorps VISTAs are ideal to coordinate this hub • New OSPI data reporting system can facilitate weekly progress measurement 	All summer
Community engagement and feedback	<p>**Community-based programs and partners that work with the community should also offer their insight for sponsors and sites for program planning and outreach that best accommodates the specific needs of youth from their community.</p> <p>All partners can include the summer meals finder "widget" on their websites</p>	<p>School districts in Yakima County can administer surveys to eligible students</p> <p>OIC can host a community convening to learn more about communities' needs and preferences</p>	February-May

New Partner	What they can offer to the effort
<u>Yakima Health District</u>	The Health District can tap into its community partnerships centered on promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing health disparities. Although their focus is disease prevention, the Community Health Director would be a good person to connect with.
<u>Yakima Human Services Department</u>	The Human Services Department can offer its existing connections with clients to promote outreach efforts. The Department can also provide a seamless broadcast about Summer Meals across the many services it administers
<u>Yakima Housing Authority</u>	The Housing Authority can be an outreach partner and can make their eligible housing developments available as sites.
<u>Yakima Parks and Recreation</u>	Parks and Recreation could take on sponsorship responsibilities, increase access to their parks and facilities, as well as ensure that their summer day camps are using the program.
<u>OIC of Washington</u>	This CAP agency could be an outreach partner through their interaction with the community in the services they provide (food bank, employment and youth programs). The agency could also be helpful in identifying food bank partners that would be willing to start or expand summer meals programs.
<u>Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital</u>	This partner could provide funding as a part of their “community-building activity” investments

Glossary

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP): a nutrition education and federal meal reimbursement program helping providers serve nutritious and safely prepared meals and snacks to children and adults in day care settings.

Eligible for free or reduced-priced meals: Students living in households with gross incomes at or below 130% of the poverty line are qualified to receive free meals through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. The USDA uses annually-adjusted Income Eligibility Guidelines to set thresholds for student qualification in these programs. Students living in households with incomes between 130% and 185% of the poverty line are qualified to receive reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. The USDA uses annually-adjusted Income Eligibility Guidelines to set thresholds for student qualification.

Food security: a technical term measured annually by the USDA; food secure households display no indicators of food access problems or limitations.

National School Lunch Program (NSLP): a federal program administered nationally by the USDA and locally by OSPI. Schools participating in the National School Lunch Program provide lunches to students that meet specified nutritional standards. The program provides per meal cash reimbursements to public, non-profit private schools and residential childcare institutions that provide free and reduced-price breakfasts to eligible children.

Participation: refers to the extent that free-and-reduced-lunch-eligible students utilize the program

Sites: physical locations where meals are served during a supervised time period. Sites could be located at parks, pools, community centers, churches, apartment complexes, schools, mobile home parks, or libraries. Sponsors may operate their own sites or partner with other agencies which will provide a location and staff.

Sponsors: Sponsors can be a school district, school, local government agency, non-profit organization (including faith based organizations), tribe, or camp. The sponsor accepts financial and administrative responsibility for managing the meal program. See the [Washington Summer Meals Guide](#) for more information.

Summer learning loss: the loss in academic skills and knowledge over the course of summer vacation

ⁱ Food Research and Action Center. (2013). *Hunger doesn't take a vacation: Summer Nutrition Status Report 2013*. Retrieved from: http://frac.org/pdf/2013_summer_nutrition_report.pdf.

ⁱⁱ United States Department of Agriculture (September 2013). *Household Food Insecurity in the United States in 2012*. Retrieved from <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err-economic-research-report/err155.aspx#.UuLH99LTIYx>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Office of the Superintendent of Instruction. (2012-13). *Washington State Report Card*. Retrieved from: <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/summary.aspx?groupLevel=District&schoolId=1&reportLevel=State&orgLinkId=1&yrs=&year=2012-13>.

^{iv} Alaimo K., Olson C.M., Frongillo E.A. Jr. (2001). *Food Insufficiency and American School-Aged Children's Cognitive, Academic and Psychosocial Development*. *Pediatrics*. 108(1): (44-53).

^v Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. (2013). *Free and Reduced Price Meals Eligibility (October Count)* [Data tables]. Retrieved from: <http://k12.wa.us/ChildNutrition/Reports/FreeReducedMeals.aspx>

^{vi} *Id.*

^{vii} Institute for Alternative Futures. The Accelerating Disparity Reducing Advances Project, (2008). *Using Healthy Eating and Active Learning Initiatives to Reduce Health Disparities*. Retrieved from: http://www.altfutures.com/draproject/pdfs/Report_08_01_Using_Healthy_Eating_and_Active_Living_Initiatives_to_Reduce_Health_Disparities.pdf

^{viii} Alaimo K., Olson C.M., Frongillo E.A. Jr. (2001). *Food Insufficiency and American School-Aged Children's Cognitive, Academic and Psychosocial Development*. *Pediatrics*. 108(1): (44-53).

^{ix} Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. (2014). *Time to Act: Investing in the Health of Our Children and Communities*. Retrieved from: <http://www.rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/reports/2014/rwjf409002>

^x Office of Financial Management. (2010). *Population by OMB Race Categories and Hispanic Origin 2000 and 2010*. Retrieved from: http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/asr/pc/ofm_pop_race_2000_and_2010_summary.pdf

^{xi} Office of the Superintendent of Instruction. (2012-13). *Washington State Report Card*. Retrieved from: <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/summary.aspx?groupLevel=District&schoolId=1&reportLevel=State&orgLinkId=1&yrs=&year=2012-13>.