



Summer Meals Newsletter

Upcoming USDA/Partner Events:

Food Buying Guide Goes Digital!

Tuesday, February 6, 2018
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm EST
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

Leveraging Mobile Solutions to Increase Access to Summer Meals

Tuesday, February 13, 2018
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm EST
Share our Strength, No Kid Hungry

Engage the Healthcare Community to Support Summer Meals

Tuesday, March 27, 2018
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT
Share our Strength, No Kid Hungry

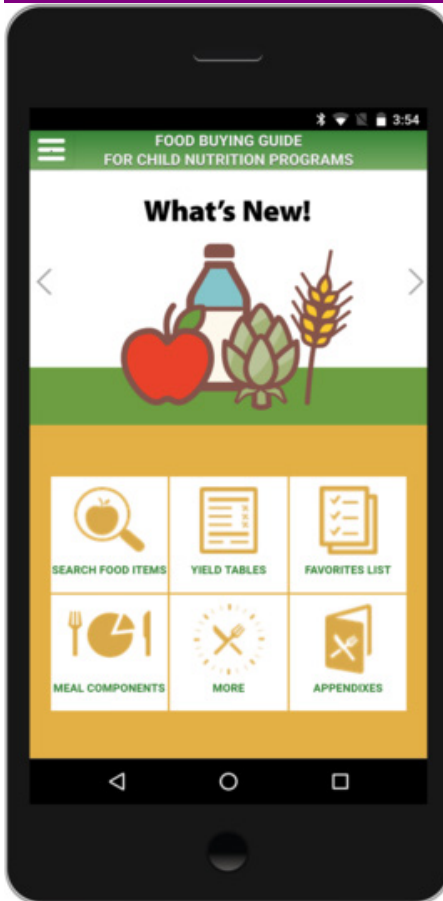


What's New: FNS's Official Texting Number 97779

FNS is excited to debut a new text number. Folks can text "Summer Meals" to 97779 to find 2018 Summer sites. Spanish speakers can text "Verano" to 97779. This FNS text number is an additional tool that families can use to find Summer sites. Sponsors can promote which ever number that is most convenient for them. For updated flyers, postcards, bookmarks, and other promotional materials, visit our [website!](#)

In addition to the texting number, FNS also has a [Summer Meals Site Finder website](#) that families can use to locate summer meals site throughout the county. Please note that site information for 2018 will start becoming available in early May.





Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (FBG) Mobile App

The Food Buying Guide (FBG) is the essential resource for food yield information for all Child Nutrition Programs (CNP). The FBG assists CNP operators, food manufacturers, and other stakeholders with:

- Purchasing the correct amounts of foods for Child Nutrition meal programs
- Determining the contribution that each food makes toward meal pattern requirements

The [FBG Mobile App](#) provides menu planning features at your fingertips! You can easily search and navigate food yields for foods typically served in Child Nutrition Program settings, compare food yields to determine the best food to purchase, and create favorite foods lists! The FBG Mobile App is currently available on the [Apple App store](#). Stay tuned for the release on the Google Play store.

Promoting Summer Meals!

It is never too early to create an outreach plan to promote Summer Meals in your communities. Here are 3 ways you can start!

1. Connect with your local radio stations. You can use the [Radio Locator](#) to find stations near you. FNS also has transcripts and PSAs available for download [online](#).
2. Connect with schools in your communities and ask if they can help you reach children before they leave for the Summer. Schools can help by distributing flyers or emailing parents or guardians. FNS recently updated our promotional materials. They are now available for download [online](#).
3. Check in with your State agency and local anti-hunger advocacy groups for free banners. Having an inventory of banners can help you decide how much you should print.