



Welcome

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Nutrition Services Division



California Department of
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Latino Children + Summer Meal Programs

Insights from Latino Parents in Mixed Status Families | June 26-27, 2017



Methods.

- Four focus groups were held in San Diego (5/24) and Fremont (5/25).
- All groups were conducted in Spanish.
- Groups lasted 120 minutes each.
- Each group involved 10-11 parents and a total of 42 parents participated.
- The parents in the focus groups were either undocumented themselves or had a spouse or partner who is undocumented.

This research was made possible through the generous support of the following organizations:

- The Alliance Health Care Foundation
- The California Health Care Foundation
- No Kid Hungry – Share our Strength
- The Stupski Foundation
- The Walter and Elise Haas Fund

Findings.

There is no such thing as safe anymore.



There is no Latino here who is not concerned. You could be detained when you are getting in your car in the morning."

- Parents do not feel 100% safe anywhere since Donald Trump was elected.
- They are reducing risk, staying home, keeping the family close.
- "Safety" is not a realistic concept anymore.
- The news and social media are fanning their worries and some do not allow their children to watch TV news anymore.

“I know Obama deported a lot of people but we didn’t see racism. Now, this president has opened up racism and everything is now distorted.”

- All say racism towards Latinos is on the rise.
- Most feel that people are now more open about their racism... “Donald Trump has given them permission.”
- Some experience economic discrimination too.
- Some parents feel that conflict and discrimination within the Latino community has increased.

Words used to describe what it feels like to be an Latino immigrant currently:

Frustrated
Anguished
Sad
Separated families

Terrorized
Stressed
Discriminated against
Rights violated

Racism has increased.

“We must be ready to leave...”

- Deportation concerns are very real for parents.
- They worry about what will happen to their children.
- So they are making plans...
 - Some are seeing attorneys to appoint guardians for their children.
 - Others are trying to get their children dual citizenship so they can return to Mexico.
 - Many are saving money in case they need to leave quickly.
 - Some are thinking of leaving.



We have seen attorneys.
They say don't speak if
we are stopped. If we
have a clean record, that's
better.”

Most have changed their behavior to reduce risk.

- ✓ They stay home.
- ✓ They travel as a family.
- ✓ They've stopped going to certain places where they feel exposed.
- ✓ They avoid places where Latinos congregate.
- ✓ One mother said she was enrolling in classes to be seen as "more worthy" of staying in the US.
- ✓ They are fixing broken tail lights or issues with their cars.
- ✓ Some are changing jobs or staying in jobs they want to leave.
- ✓ Owning anything flashy or any behavior that is too noticeable is seen as dangerous.



Children should not have to worry about this. This an adult problem, it is very sad and they are suffering.”

- They say their children are being negatively impacted by the anti-immigrant atmosphere.
- Children have become fearful. They worry their parents will be taken away.
- They have questions about their future.
- Parents put on a brave face.
- They shield their children as much as possible.
- Some children have been victims of harassment or bullying at school because of their ethnicity.

“My kids are afraid to answer the door.”

**Government Programs +
Summer Meals.**

Most do not feel comfortable enrolling in government programs right now.

- They fear that enrolling could expose them or a family member to deportation.
- Many also feel that enrolling could make it difficult to become documented later on.
- Others do not enroll because they do not want to be seen as “abusing the system” by those opposed to immigrants.
- For their children they will take more risks... they will enroll *them* in programs.
- School meal programs seem the least risky to parents.
- Also, many have children enrolled in Medi-Cal and some parents receive help from WIC.
- They are confused about or unaware of CalFresh.

“If we have an immigration issue, I don’t want them to see I have all of these assistance programs.”

“With the new President, I have no intention of asking for this program.”

Food insecurity is an issue for some.

- There are varying degrees of food insecurity among these parents.
- The cost of food is an issue for all and impacts what they buy and eat.
- Most prefer to cook for their children at home but sometimes have difficulty cooking healthy food due to expense.
- Some have gone to foodbanks in the last 12 months, usually at a church or a school.
- These families are more likely to eat simpler, less nutritious foods such as rice and beans by the end of the month. It is just more affordable.

“Healthy food is too expensive but junk food is cheap. Soda is cheaper than water!”

Low-cost or free school meals during the school year are popular.

- All of their children participate in school meals during the school year.
- They value school meals and almost all have positive feelings about them.
- The school meals save them money, are convenient, and many of their children's friends participate.
- But some fear that the program's funding will be cut and the meals will no longer be free.
- While most see the meals as healthy, some parents feel the meals include too many unhealthy items.

Awareness of summer meal programs is low.

- Many parents were initially unaware that free summer meals were being offered in their community.
- At first, many said they did not intend for their children to participate.
- They are stressed and tired and have not yet figured out their children's summer schedule.
- Once they hear a brief description of the summer meal program (to the right), almost all say they are interested in having their children participate.

What they heard (in Spanish):

“Free meals are available to children and youth during the summer in California. Many of the families that benefit from these meals receive free or reduced price school breakfast or lunches during the school year. While school is on summer break, certain sites are designated as places where children can eat meals. These places could be schools, local libraries, community centers, churches, parks, or Boys and Girls clubs.”

The best reason for a family to participate is “getting the children out of the house” and “being active and healthy.”

| | Top Choice |
|--|------------|
| Summer meal programs can get children out of the house, which helps them be active and healthy even while they are not in school. | 22 |
| At many summer meal locations there are also educational activities which means your children can have a healthy meal AND won't fall behind in school. | 16 |
| Children who participate in summer meal programs are better able to stay at a healthy weight. | 3 |
| Summer meal programs are free, which means feeding your children during the summer won't hurt your budget. | 1 |
| Summer meal programs are convenient. They are often nearby in your community. | 0 |

- Focusing on “meals” alone might not draw as many parents.
- They want their children to learn and be active during the summer as well.
- “Getting children out of the house” was a big theme for parents.

Overall, most parents want their children to participate in summer meals but there are some barriers...

- ✓ Lack of awareness.
- ✓ Perception that meals will not be healthy.
- ✓ Some have immigration concerns but they are not on the surface initially.
- ✓ Transportation is not an issue for most parents.
- ✓ Other barriers also came up, like the family returning to Mexico for the summer or just wanting a simple summer with the children at home.

Immigration Fears + Sensitive Locations.

Telling parents they can enroll their children without indicating the immigration status of family members is key.

| | Top Choice |
|--|------------|
| You can sign up your children without giving their immigration status or the immigration status of anyone in their family. | 14 |
| There are trained adults in each location who will watch over your children and help them if there is a problem. | 9 |
| Your children are legally allowed to remain silent if questioned by an immigration officer. | 4 |
| Some places that offer summer meal programs – like schools and churches – are “sensitive locations,” which means ICE or CBP agents generally avoid them. | 3 |
| Your children can have a “Know Your Rights” card which they could show to an ICE or CBP agent if stopped. | 2 |
| Your children could pick up the meals at a location without staying | 1 |

- For some parents, the biggest concern about summer meal programs is their immigration status.
- The idea that summer meal programs do not require giving out personal information is the most comforting to parents.
- Parents also like the idea of trained adults on site.
- Picking up meals is not a popular idea.

“Sensitive locations sound like something could happen.”

- There is confusion over the concept of “sensitive locations.”
- Not guaranteeing these locations are 100% safe from ICE or CBP agents reminds them how vulnerable their family is.
- Part of this lack of trust is that many parents have heard rumors of such sites already being the target of raids.
- Many feel that nothing short of legislation preventing ICE or CBP agents from going to certain places would suffice.



Of course they know [undocumented people are there]! The government is smart, they are going to raid it. They know there are a lot of Latinos.”

Their child's school is where they want to go for summer meals.

- Their child's school is the best location for summer meals.
- Some parents feel their children's schools have been their best partner during these stressful months since Donald Trump's election.
- If the school is not available, a nearby location is key (they do not want to be far from their children).
- They are open to their children receiving meals at a local YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, or recreational centers.
- They are more torn about churches and libraries.
- They would not feel comfortable going to a police station.

"I'd go if it's close to home. I wouldn't want my daughter and me to be separated too far."

Other than schools, parents have few trusted messengers right now.

- Their children's schools and teachers are who they trust most.
- Many already receive school newsletters via email or in the mail. Those who have heard of summer meal programs heard about it in this way.
- Parents also want to hear through Facebook ads/messages and flyers home from school.
- They could think of no statewide spokesperson or politician they would trust.
- There is some awareness of local organizations that advocate for immigrants but little knowledge of what they actually do.

Parents want symbols at meal locations to show that they and their children are welcome.



- Parents want a warm, welcoming symbol.
- Featuring diverse children is positive.
- They reject aggressive images and slogans.
- They will not believe assurances of safety – not realistic.

Recommendations.

Advice from the research.

1. Reach parents soon with messages.
2. Use schools, teachers, rec centers, and Facebook to spread the word.
3. Give parents basic facts, such as when and where sites are operating, and explain that meals are free.
4. Use a message that combines “free healthy meals” with “learning and activities.” Meals alone may not be enough of a draw.
5. Make it clear that parents do not need to provide information about their immigration status on the application.
6. If true, also mention that trained individuals will be at these sites to watch over their children in case ICE/CBP agents appear.

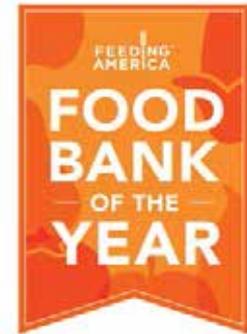
More advice from the research...

7. Use schools as sites for the meals as much as possible. If not, direct parents to local rec centers, Boys and Girls Clubs, and the YMCA. Do not suggest police stations as sites.
8. Do not promise parents and children “safety” – not believable.
9. Do not use the term “sensitive locations.”
10. Focus on conveying that immigrants are “welcome” at meal sites – this is believable.
11. Use a symbol to make parents more comfortable.
12. Consider working on policy that makes it illegal for ICE and CBP agents to raid locations that serve children. This is the only thing that will make parents feel at least temporarily safe in these locations.





**ALAMEDA COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK**



Impact of Changes in Immigration on Food Bank Clients in Alameda County



Immediate Impact

Immediately following the leaked draft executive order threatening deportation of legal immigrants, we began hearing from our clients:

- First week, we had 40 households call us to stop/cancel their CalFresh benefits.
- One of the calls was from **an elderly U.S. citizen**, who lives with his wife, who has LPR status. Although they are both legally eligible to receive benefits he has since cancelled his benefits for fear that it could affect them both.
- Our Food Helpline clients called requesting that their name be removed from our database, stating concerns they could be deported for picking up free food.



Our Response

- Continue to create a welcoming and friendly environment
- Clients are asking more questions--many are moving forward with applying
- Immigrant Rights training for Food Bank staff
- “Know Your Rights” red cards for clients
- Inform clients of KYR trainings in their community
- Align our messaging with Social Services– stick to the facts
 - CalFresh: No changes to program
 - No executive order has been signed
 - The program continues to be available for all people who need and qualify for CalFresh
- Allow people to make an informed decision about moving forward



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dignity

passion

vegetables

Behind the Scenes

- Political climate has made an overall impact on safety net programs
- We still struggle with finding the right message to alleviate the fears around immigration.
- The idea that we can't guarantee 100% safety is troubling to us.
- We want to reassure our clients that “things are okay” and at the same time, we don't really know. We don't want to over-promise.



Messaging and Outreach

- Political climate has made an overall impact on safety net programs.
- Combating the “stigma” on these programs is far more challenging.



Outreach Campaigns

- In February, ACCFB sent out a **direct mail campaign to 99,779 households** that receive Medi-Cal, but are not receiving CalFresh. The mailer was sent in English, Spanish and Chinese. The **return rate for Spanish and Chinese is significantly lower than in previous years**---overall, less than 1% return compared to 3-4% in previous years.
- We face greater challenges, but we will continue doing what we can to help address lack of awareness and misconceptions that exist around food programs.
- Keep reinforcing messages on the benefits that programs like Summer Meals,, CalFresh, WIC and others provide.

NEW Material

- A guide complete with information about available food programs for:

- Children
- Families
- Seniors

Your Guide to
Healthy Food Resources
in Alameda County

Su Guía de **Recursos de Alimentos Saludables**
en el Condado de Alameda



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Facebook Ad Campaign

- Targeting Low-income English Preferred Latinos
- Targeting Low Income African Americans
- HHI of \$30K or less; ages 25-54
- Retargets to those who click on ad
- Four month campaign
- Estimated 1.5 million impressions
- 11,535+ estimated engagements with ad



Addressing Immigration Concerns at Summer Meal sites in San Diego

ROBIN MCNULTY, SAN DIEGO HUNGER COALITION

JENNIFER SENEOR, SAN DIEGO HUNGER COALITION

The importance

Partners reporting drop in numbers at food programs and that clients are expressing fear.

A very difficult and complex situation—many are not sure what to do.

San Diego has a high population of undocumented individuals: 207,000 individuals

ICE has a presence in San Diego and is arresting individuals for detainment/deportation.

After ICE arrests, fear spreads among undocumented immigrants

POSTED 6:15 PM, FEBRUARY 11, 2017, BY [CNN WIRE](#). UPDATED AT 08:00PM, FEBRUARY 11, 2017

ICE Raids Near National City Schools, Parents Arrested, Children Left Unattended

MAY 26, 2017 BY BARBARA ZARAGOZA — 9 COMMENTS

Focus group learning & integration into practice

Summer Meals Task Force

The Summer Meals Task Force is facilitated by the San Diego Hunger Coalition and a resource for starting new summer meal sites and improving existing sites. It's goal is to increase participation in summer meals countywide.

25 partners in the task force

1

Provided the taskforce a presentation by an immigration attorney from Legal Aid Society of San Diego so task force members are informed about current policy and it's impact on those we serve.

2

Presented to the task force on the learnings from the focus groups to disseminate this information to as many people as possible.

Immigration education for the task force

Recruitment
and
promotion of
sites
conducive to
the immigrant
community

Families expressed that YMCAs and schools were trusted locations.

San Diego Hunger Coalition is working with school districts and the YMCA to add more Summer Meal sites.

- Adding a summer meal site at a Youth Center in National City that is sponsored by the Southbay Union School District. Meals will be served indoors at the recreational facility.
- New YMCA site located in North County.

Messaging to the community

No registration & no sign-ups +
All children are welcome!

=

Inclusive language to the entire community.

San Diego Summer Meals Task Force Recommendations for Sponsors & Sites

As you gear up to serve summer meals this year, the Summer Meals Task Force has prepared the following recommendations to help increase participation at your sites.



Photo credit: San Diego Unified School District.

On your summer meal flyers, in addition to listing your sites, please also include this information because people lose flyers!

To locate the site nearest you, text FOOD to 877-877, or call 2-1-1.

Para localizar el sitio más cerca de usted, mande un texto al 877-877 con la palabra COMIDA o llame al 2-1-1.

1

We also recommend this language:

Free summer meals for all children. No registration or sign-up required.

Comida gratis para niños este verano. No es necesario registrarse.

2

FRIENDS, FREE MEALS AND FUN!



Kids and teens in your neighborhood can get a healthy, delicious meal and have a free, safe place to hang out with their friends. Available for ALL KIDS age 18 or younger.

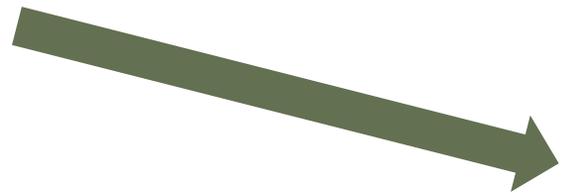
Niños y adolescentes menores de 18 años en su comunidad pueden recibir comidas gratuitas y saludables en un lugar seguro para pasar el tiempo y divertirse con sus amigos.

TEXT 'FOOD' TO 877-877 OR CALL 2-1-1 TO FIND FREE SUMMER MEAL SITES NEAR YOU!

PARA LOCALIZAR EL SITIO MAS CERCA DE UD., MANDE UN TEXTO AL 877-877 CON LA PALABRA "COMIDA" O LLAME AL 2-1-1.

IT'S EASY & FREE TRY IT NOW!
FOOD, FRIENDS, & FUN!
EVERYONE WELCOME!
NO REGISTRATION/SIGN-UPS REQUIRED.
NO ENROLLMENT. NO COST

¡ES FACIL, PRUEBALO AHORA!
COMIDA Y AMIGOS. ¡QUÉ DIVERTIDO!
TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS.
NO ES NECESARIO REGISTRARSE PARA RECIBIR AL MUERZOS DE VERANO GRATIS.
SIN INSCRIPTION. GRATIS.



The draw of summer meal sites

Emphasizing to the Summer Meal Task Force the importance of educational and physical activities.

Working with the City of Oceanside and Oceanside Unified School District to conduct a Summer Meal kick-off:

- Educational activities & physical activities including a bounce house, entertainment, DJ, fire department, library bookmobile, etc.
- Promotes interest about summer meal sites
- Connects partners to summer meal sites so they may be able to offer activities at sites throughout the summer

Thank you!

Questions?

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A Discussion of Immigrants and Summer Foods

Best Practices & Internal Policies



BETZABEL ESTUDILLO
CALIFORNIA IMMIGRANT POLICY
CENTER
JUNE 26, 2017



Founded in 1996, CIPC is a non-partisan, non-profit statewide organization that seeks to inform public debate and policy decisions on issues affecting the state's immigrants and their families in order to improve the quality of life for all Californians. CIPC engages in policy advocacy, and provides technical assistance, training and education on immigrant issues.

Anti-Immigrant Climate



- These are difficult times for immigrant families
- Trump signed Executive Orders advancing aggressive immigration enforcement, and threatening sanctuary cities, and made comments related to access to public benefits.
- Administration targeting of immigrants, scare tactics, and draconian detention and deportation machine has caused increased fear and anxiety in immigrant families.
- Immigrant families are fearful of enrolling and utilizing health and public benefits
 - Missing appointments, or doctor visits
 - Asking to be disenroll from health and public benefit programs
 - Confusion about administrative actions and changes to public charge

Fear of Deportation Makes Communities Less Healthy

Deportation policy creates a climate of fear and paralysis in communities.



People are afraid to drive,



afraid to use parks and exercise outdoors,



afraid to use public services like clinics,



afraid to get involved in their communities.

Best Practices & Considerations



- Be a strong ally. Speak up! Show up!
- Ask yourself, *what kind of support do I provide to my patient/client that goes beyond my job duties?*
- **Provide adequate information and resources**
- Educate others. Provide facts, address assumptions about immigrants, and intervene in situations where misconceptions are being made about an immigrant person.
- **Identify community resources and partner with organizations that provide legal, education, and other immigrant services and link families to these resources. Consult with other agencies or technical experts about immigrant eligibility**

Best Practices & Considerations



- Assure immigrant families they are not alone and that you are here to help them.
- Ask the family which language they prefer to use and have qualified interpreters if available.
- **Help reduce fear by making sure internal policies and practices do not create additional obstacles for immigrants.**
- Provide empathetic and patient-centered care by listening and addressing fears and concerns
- **Provide training for all staff and volunteers on how to work with immigrants**

Sensitive Locations



- Schools, community centers, libraries, churches are gathering places and resource hubs for those that may not have access or are fearful to receive those resources elsewhere.
- ICE Memo (2011) – Enforcement Actions at or Focused on Sensitive Locations
 - Memo considers schools, churches, hospitals, a site of a funeral, wedding, or other religious services, and a site of public demonstrations to sensitive spaces for conducting enforcement
 - This policy is still in place.
- Limitations to sensitive locations
- Efforts to declare safe spaces for immigrant communities and ensure privacy of personal information.
 - SB 54 (de Leon) – CA Values Act
 - SB 244 (Lara) – Privacy Protection Act

What Centers & Providers Can Do

- Publicly state center's commitment to serving all, regardless of immigration status, and ensuring their protection
 - Message to families
- Make signs & documents in multiple languages, linguistically sensitive, and avoid alienating vocabulary
- Learn about religious practices and cultural preferences, but don't generalize



What Centers & Providers Can Do



- **Adopt internal policies and procedures that limit law enforcement in the premises**
- **Establish an ICE Protocol and train staff on procedure and policies**
 - What does an ICE agent look like
 - What to do if immigration agents enter the healthcare facility
 - Practice a scenario and role-play responses
 - What does a warrant look like and when is it valid
 - Where do you keep sensitive documents and patient information
 - How to report a violation
- **Prepare Know Your Rights materials and consider providing this information while families wait for their food or when they drop off their child**
- **Build relationship with a legal center or attorney to refer families to, seek advice of policy and procedures, and if ICE does enter a facility**

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California Immigrant Policy Center
Sacramento – Oakland – Los Angeles – San Diego
www.CAimmigrant.org

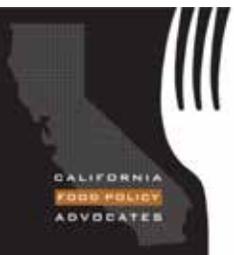


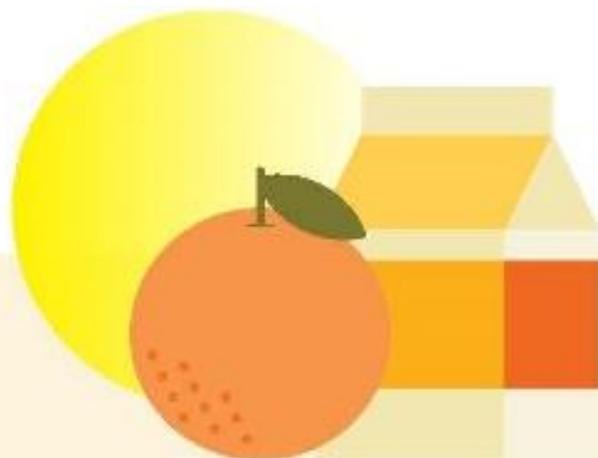
Policy Opportunities: Safe Spaces at Summer Meal Sites and Beyond

Anna Colby, MS, MPP

Nutrition Policy Advocate

California Food Policy Advocates



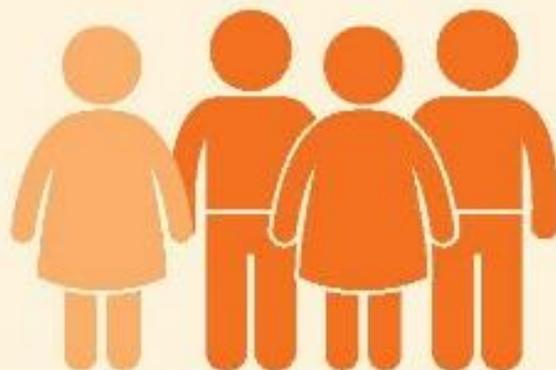


Summer Brings Risk of Hunger for Children

California kids need year-round access to healthy, affordable meals. In California:



Over **2 million** children live in households that struggle to put enough food on the table.



Nearly **1 in 4** kids may go to bed hungry.



Summer Meals Support Health and Learning

Summer meal programs provide children with the adequate nutrition they need to learn, grow and thrive throughout the summer and when school is back in session.

Summer meal programs:



Shield kids from struggling with hunger



Get children out of the house and staying active

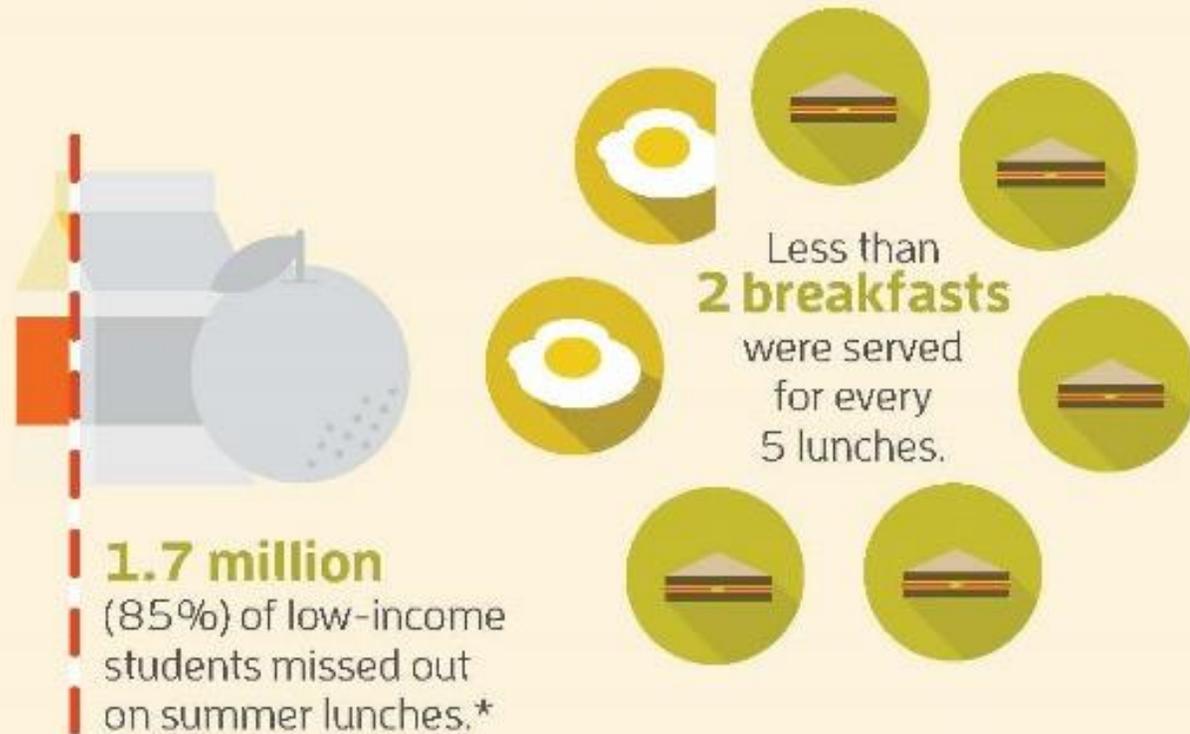


Further student learning



Bring in federal dollars to the state

Yet during summer 2016...



Policy Matters.

Policy actions can make summer meals **more accessible, welcoming,** and **safer** for immigrant families

Policy action that would...

prohibit immigration
enforcement activities
at summer meal sites

Policy action that would...

restrict the collection
and sharing of
participant information

Policy action that would...

support outreach
efforts to families and
training for site staff

Be an Advocate for Change!



Subscribe to CFPA Action Alerts: cfpa.net/subscribe



Thank you!

For more information about summer hunger in California:

cfpa.net/sowa-2017

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Follow us on Twitter [@CAFoodPolicy](https://twitter.com/CAFoodPolicy)





Follow-up

- Copies of the Presentations
- Ways to Stay Involved

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