

NORTH CAROLINA STATEWIDE PROFILE

NEED

Almost 1 Million or 70%
of students in North Carolina's K-12 public schools were eligible for FRP school meals



Children receiving free and reduced-price (FRP) school meals are at greater risk of hunger during the summer.

FUELING CHILDREN & THE ECONOMY

\$147M in funding to NC from all SUN Summer Nutrition Programs



1.1M

Children received benefits

\$129.7M

Funding distributed in NC

(\$120 per eligible child for the 2024 summer)



3.3M

Meals served

\$13.4M

NC Summer Meal Funding



956.4K

Meals served

\$3.8M

NC Summer Meal Funding

USDA's three **SUN SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR KIDS** offer families more ways to get their kids the nutrition they need when school is out. Lack of nutrition during the summer makes students more likely to fall behind in school and experience health issues.

Administered by the NC Department of Public Instruction, USDA reimburses meal sponsors for serving meals at no cost to youth ages 18 and younger in low-income areas during the summer.



Meals and snacks at in-person sites

SUN Meals are in-person **congregate meals** (eaten in a group setting), which is the traditional way of providing nutrition when school is out for the summer. Meals and snacks are served at locations such as libraries, faith-based organizations, parks, camps, and at schools that often provide summer learning. Many meal sites offer fun, engaging, and educational activities.



Meals for delivery/pick up in some rural areas

SUN Meals To-Go are **non-congregate meals** offered in some rural communities that are often the most under-served areas. How meals are distributed vary by sponsor and may include options such as: meals picked up by designated adults, multiple meals provided at once, and meals delivered to neighborhoods or in some cases, directly to homes.

Administered by the NC Department of Health and Human Services, operating in 2024 for the first time.



Grocery benefits per eligible child

SUN Bucks (Summer EBT or S-EBT) gives grocery-buying benefits on a debit-like card to families with eligible children. The one-time payment per eligible child was \$120 for the summer of 2024, but the amount may vary from year-to-year. Families receiving SUN Bucks also are encouraged to participate in the other Summer Nutrition Programs.

For more information visit: SummerMeals4NCKids.org/County-Profiles

NORTH CAROLINA

2024 Summer Nutrition Programs



Summer meal sponsors:	175
Congregate meal sites:	2,424
Sponsors approved for non-congregate meals:	33
Non-congregate meal sites:	194

Total congregate meals:	3,258,624
Total non-congregate meals:	956,355
TOTAL SUMMER MEALS SERVED:	4,214,979

# of days meals were served:	1-79
Average # of days served:	22
Average daily participation:	81,600

Type of meals served:
Breakfast, Lunch/Supper, and Snacks

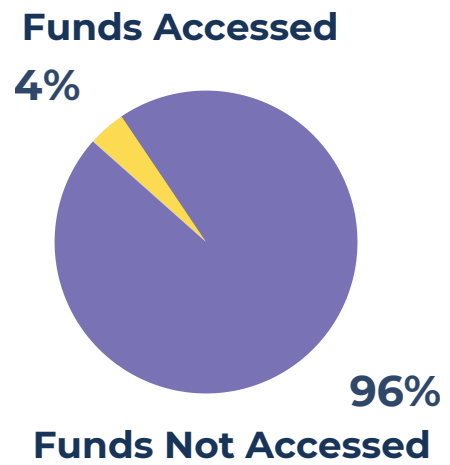


During the summer, families can text FOOD or COMIDA to 304-304 to find nearby summer meals!

THE OPPORTUNITY: Expanding Access

Up to 2 meals or snacks are reimbursable by USDA at each meal site daily, and can be served 7 days a week during the summer.

\$440.7M	\$17.2M
potential funds for NC if every FRP eligible student received 2 meals Monday-Friday (55 days) in the summer.	funding accessed
	\$423.4M
	not accessed



SummerMeals4NCKids.org @NCSchoolMeals, #NCSummerMeals
NCDHHS.gov/SUNBucks @NCDHHS, #SUNBucks
CarolinaHungerInitiative.org @CarolinaHungerInitiative

Data Sources: NC Department of Public Instruction October 2023 and Summer 2024 Meal Claims Data; NC Department of Health and Human Services SUN Bucks data based on payments to families through October 28, 2024. Hybrid meal sites serving both congregate and non-congregate meals were categorized as non-congregate meal sites for data purposes only. Average daily participation (ADP) based on July 2024. See data explainer at SummerMeals4NCKids.org/County-Profiles.

