

North Carolina

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.

COUNTY DATA PROFILE

2025 Summer Nutrition Programs for Kids

Gaston County

NEED

26.6K or 82%

of students in North Carolina's K-12 schools were eligible for FRP* school meals



FUELING CHILDREN & THE ECONOMY

\$3.9M in funding to the county from all SUN Summer Nutrition Programs



\$120 per eligible child for the 2025 summer

25.8K

Children received benefits in the county

\$3.1M

Funding distributed in the county

Total # of Meals for Kids distributed in the county 179.7K



Congregate meals, eaten on-site with other kids

75.1K

Meals served

\$324K

NC summer meals funding

1/1

Congregate sponsors/total sponsors

64

Congregate meal sites

47/64

Open sites/Congregate meal sites
open to anyone 18 years and under



Non-congregate meals (NCM), in rural areas, picked up or delivered to homes

104.6K

Meals served

\$444.2K

NC summer meals funding

1/1

NCM sponsors/total sponsors**

5

Total NCM sites

0/5

Hybrid sites/Total NCM sites
serve congregate and NCM meals

5/5

Open NCM sites/Total NCM sites
open to anyone 18 years and under

* Free and Reduced-Priced school meals

**Most NCM sponsors also serve congregate meals; therefore the numbers of sponsors may overlap.

GASTON COUNTY



2025 Summer Nutrition Programs for Kids

Thanks to all
the dedicated
summer
nutrition staff!



SummerMeals4NCKids.org/County-Profiles

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.

\$12.2M

Potential funds if every
FRP eligible student
received 2 meals
Monday-Friday (55 days)
in the summer.

\$768.3K

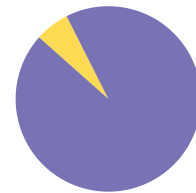
Funding Accessed

11.4M

Not Accessed

6%

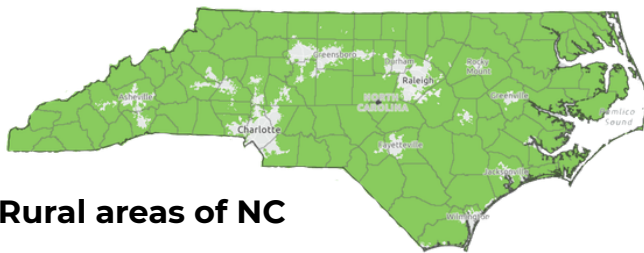
Funds Accessed



94%

Funds Not Accessed

**NCM participating
areas in 2025**



Rural areas of NC



**Check us out on
social media!**

@CarolinaHungerInitiative
@NCSchoolMeals
@Ray4NCKids
#SummerMeals4NCKids

SummerMeals4NCKids.org

NCDHHS.gov/SUNBucks

CarolinaHungerInitiative.org



These institutions are equal opportunity employers and providers.

Data Sources: See data explainer at SummerMeals4NCKids.org/Data-Profiles.

Updated 4/15/26