

Reducing Child Hunger Through Partnerships

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The logo is a blue square with a fine grid pattern. Inside the square, the text "ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA FOOD BANKS" is written in white, sans-serif, uppercase letters. The word "ARIZONA" is highlighted in orange.

ASSOCIATION
OF ARIZONA
FOOD BANKS

AAFB Background

- AAFB is a private, non-profit organization serving five regional food banks and a network of nearly 1,200 food pantries and agencies.
- Our focus is advocacy, promotion, assistance, networking, gleaning, awareness
- The Association of Arizona Food Banks is not a food bank - we help make food banking better.

Why are we involved in child hunger?

- AAFB's board of directors in spring 2014 outlined a new plan to address hunger in Arizona
- One of the initiatives is to increase participation in school meals: Community Eligibility Provision, school breakfast, summer meals
- We cannot “food bank” our way out of the hunger problem in Arizona



Overview

- Community Eligibility Provision
- Alternative Breakfast Models
- Summer Food Service Program
- School Pantries
- Advocacy



What is CEP?

- The Community Eligibility Provision is a way for high poverty schools to feed all students with less paperwork burden.
- Serve breakfast and lunch free to all students in qualifying schools
- The program was piloted in several states before being rolled out nation-wide in the 2014-15 school year.

How does it work?

- Schools that adopt CEP provide free breakfasts and lunches to all students
- Schools do not collect applications
- Any school district participating in NSLP can use this option if at least one of its schools has 40% or more students certified for free meals without application (called “Identified Students”)

Who are “Identified Students?”

Identified Students = Children certified for free meals without submitting a school meal application

Includes children who live in households that participate in:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Cash Assistance (TANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or
- Medicaid (in districts participating in USDA’s demonstration project – not in AZ)

Includes children who:

- are in foster care
- are in Head Start
- are homeless or
- are migrant



Direct Certification

- Schools match student data with SNAP and TANF data from DES on the Arizona Dept. of Ed. database
- School gets list of students who match and those that don't
- Students are matched on exact first name, last name, and date of birth
- AZ system is not optimal, but they are working to make improvements

Reimbursements under CEP

- $\% \text{ Identified Students} \times 1.6 = \% \text{ meals reimbursed at "free" rate}$; the rest are reimbursed at “paid” rate
- Example: a school with 50 percent Identified Students would be reimbursed at the free rate for 80 percent of the breakfasts and lunches it served ($50\% \times 1.6 = 80\%$) and the remaining 20 percent would be reimbursed at the paid rate
- Participating schools are guaranteed to receive the same reimbursement rate (or a higher one if the Identified Student Percentage increases) for 4 years

CEP in Arizona

- According to FRAC in Arizona for SY 2014-15

| School Districts | | | Individual Schools | | | |
|------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Eligible for CEP | Adopting CEP | % adopting CEP of total eligible | Eligible for CEP | Adopting CEP | % adopting CEP of total eligible | Student enrollment at schools adopting CEP |
| 91 | 29 | 32% | 237 | 73 | 31% | 30,763 |

Why do schools adopt?

- Reduces paperwork
- Reduces stigma
- Increases participation
- Eliminates unpaid meal fees
- Improves financial viability of school food service programs



Why don't schools adopt?

- Fear of losing free/reduced meal data
- Lack of knowledge/understanding of CEP
- Qualify for CEP in 40% - mid 50% range, but numbers don't work out
- Some schools only interested if entire district qualifies
- Last year was first year of rollout nationwide

Survey Feedback

- AAFB conducted survey of schools that adopted CEP for 2014-15 school year
- 100% were satisfied that they chose CEP
- 100% would recommend CEP to eligible schools
- 63.6% saw an increase in breakfast and lunch participation
- Most see themselves financially better off than before CEP

What is AAFB doing?

- Encourage schools that qualify to take a closer look at CEP
- Work with partners to provide outreach
 - Arizona Department of Education
 - Arizona Community Action Association
 - Arizona School Boards Association
 - Children's Action Alliance
 - Food Research and Action Center

Alternative Breakfast Programs

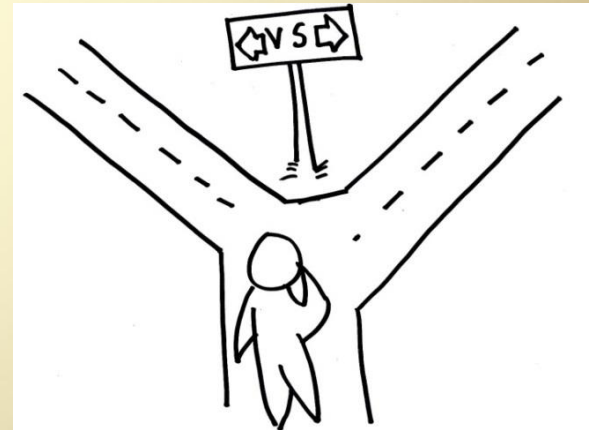
- Only 50.9% of eligible low income students participate in school breakfast
- 55% of all students in AZ schools qualify for free or reduced priced meals
- Alternative breakfast programs offer breakfast service in the classroom instead of the cafeteria



Data from FRAC & ADE

Why does participation increase?

- Students don't have to choose between cafeteria and playground
- Breakfast in cafeteria often has stigma
- Positive peer pressure – especially when breakfast is free
- Students don't have to arrive early



What is BIC?

- Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC) is the best way to increase breakfast participation by having students eat breakfast in their classroom instead of the cafeteria.



Breakfast in the Classroom

- Gold standard of breakfast service at school
- Ideally served after the bell
- Works best in schools that offer free breakfast
- What does it look like?

<https://vimeo.com/95519900>



Grab-n-Go Model

- Breakfast served from kiosk/s
- Students take breakfast to class
- Works well in middle and high schools
- Can be used in schools that charge for breakfast



Why do schools adopt?

- Improved classroom performance
- Improved focus
- Fewer nurse/office visits
- Fewer discipline problems
- Teachers don't have to buy snacks with own money



Why don't schools adopt?

- Can be difficult to get everybody on board
- Fear of change, mess, losing class time
- Cannot afford to offer free breakfast
- Can be more difficult to offer hot breakfast
- Can increase use of prepackaged foods

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What is AAFB doing?

- Work with partners -
 - Valley of the Sun United Way
 - Dairy Council of Arizona
 - Arizona Department of Education
 - Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom
- Education, outreach, and technical assistance
- Look for other ways to increase participation

Summer Food (SFSP)

- Bridges the summer gap when students not in school.
- Held at many different sites – schools, churches, community centers, etc., often with activities.
- Arizona served approximately 1.9 million summer meals in summer 2014.

Data from USDA



What does it look like?

- Any child and teen 18 and younger can eat for free
- Served at schools, apartment complexes, churches, WIC offices, etc.
- 1 or 2 meals daily
- Congregate feeding – children eat on site
- Sites encouraged to have activities




Getting Involved

- Community organizations can be sponsors and/or sites
- Volunteers always needed to serve meals, run activities
- Training for sponsors offered in February
- Share a skill/run an activity
- Donate prizes to help keep attendance high

What is AAFB doing?

- Created and shared promotional materials, ideas, sample letters, posters, etc.
- Promote SFSP on social media
- Work with partners –
 - Valley of the Sun United Way
 - Dairy Council of Arizona
 - USDA
 - AZ Department of Education



Food That's In
When School
Is Out

Free Summer Meals

- Available to all Kids and teens 18 and under
- No registration or ID required
- Children must consume food on site

Comidas de Verano Gratis

- Disponible para todos los niños de 18 años y menos
- No necesita registrarse ni presentar tarjeta de identificación
- *Los niños deben consumir la comida en el sitio

Location:

Dates:

Meals: **Times:**

To find information about other sites in Arizona, call 602-542-8700 or go to www.azsummerfood.gov

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Summer Food Service Program

Free summer meals available to all kids and teens 18 and under.

Location:

Dates:

Meals: **Times:**

For other site info, call 602-542-8700 or go to www.azsummerfood.gov

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School Pantries

- Schools partner with food banks to offer food to families in school setting
- With or without Backpack Programs
- Located in schools with very high free/reduced meal population
- Can be done in conjunction with school welcome or resource center



Options for distribution

- Permanent room in school
- Mobile site visit
- Pre-boxed or client choice
- Usually once or twice per month, can be weekly

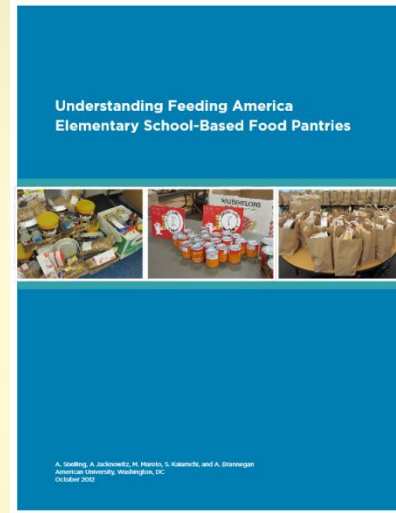


School Pantries in AZ

- Beaver Creek School Food Bank (Lake Montezuma)
- Carmichael Elementary School (Sierra Vista)
- JO Combs Food & Clothing Bank (San Tan Valley)
- South Point Elementary (Phoenix)
- Cartwright School District (Phoenix)
- Desert Valley Elementary School (Bullhead City)

Learn More about School Pantries

- Great resource:
Understanding
Feeding America
Elementary School-
Based Food Pantries
- Kimberly Roland, St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance



Advocacy

- Child Nutrition Reauthorization set to expire September 30, 2015
- Programs included:
 - National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
 - School Breakfast Program (SBP)
 - Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
 - Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
 - Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Paper Bag Campaign

- Raise awareness of child hunger and importance of CNR
- Decorate paper bag with hunger-fighting messages, pictures, stories, facts – add your name and congressional district
- Bags showcased at Arizona Child Nutrition Coalition events, Congressional site visits, social media



CNR Wish List

- Streamline paperwork and rules
- Allow adoption of piloted service models
 - waiving the requirement that children eat on site
 - allowing mobile meal drop-off
 - issuing enhanced EBT cards that allow parents to provide summer meals.
- Eliminated “reduced” meal category
- Provide full funding without taking from other food assistance programs

What is AAFB doing?

- Working with Arizona Child Nutrition Coalition
- Developing educational briefs for congressional members and senators
- Keeping informed about CNR related legislation
- Reaching out to elected officials
- Asking for your help – Advocacy Alert Network

How can you partner to help children?

- Encourage client participation in SNAP
- Speak to school contacts about CEP, BIC, SFSP
- Be a sponsor or site for summer meals
- Partner with a school to create a pantry
- Contact your State elected representatives to show support for CNR
- Invite elected officials to see your work
- Share your stories

Thank you!

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Social Media:
www.facebook.com/azfoodbanks
www.twitter.com/aafb

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