Feeding Ohio children while school is out

An overview of innovative food programs for children administered by the Ohio Association of Foodbanks and made possible through partnership with Governor John R. Kasich, the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, the Ohio Department of Education, and community organizations throughout Ohio.

More than 1 in 4 kids in Ohio don’t always know where their next meal will come from.

Children who are at risk of hunger are also at risk of poorer health and an inability to learn and grow properly.

This is especially true during the summer months, when school meals aren’t available. But in Ohio, we’re fighting back against childhood hunger in big ways.
Summer Weekend Meals Program

For the second consecutive year, Governor Kasich signed an Executive Order which allowed the Ohio Association of Foodbanks to provide kid-friendly, shelf-stable meals for children attending summer food sites to take home over the weekend. This $1 million investment allowed the association and participating sponsors to provide six meals to about 10,000 children each week for 10 weeks this summer.

The distribution of 600,000 weekend meals (about 60,000 each week) was made possible through partnership with 29 Summer Food Service Program sponsors.

Mobile Farmers Market Distributions

An additional Executive Order signed by Governor Kasich provided funding to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables and protein items to distribute to the families of children participating in the Summer Weekend Meals Program.

The investment of $500,000 in this special initiative allowed the Ohio Association of Foodbanks to distribute 1,330,658 pounds of nutritious food (or more than 1.1 million meals) at an average cost per pound of $0.3732. The food was provided to families through mobile farmers market distributions, held by 11 sponsors in 13 counties.

Some of the most popular items distributed included peanut butter, sweet corn, peppers, watermelon, cucumbers, cheese, bananas, oranges, apples, and cabbage.
Innovative Meal Delivery Program

For the first time, the Ohio Association of Foodbanks received funding through an Executive Order to support the piloting of innovative meal delivery programs for children.

This $500,000 allowed participating sponsors to deliver meals to children who would otherwise not be able to get to a summer meal site. The program targeted children in highly rural areas of southern Ohio with transportation and access barriers. The children served live in some of the most remote parts of the state and were identified as at-risk and underserved.

Five sponsors provided 11 kid-friendly, shelf-stable meals to about 1,700 at-risk children each week. In total, they distributed 189,145 meals (18,914 each week). They delivered the meals through community drop-off locations and through home delivery in Gallia, Jackson, Meigs, Pike, Scioto, and Vinton Counties.

“The kids are antsy, they’re waiting for me when I pull up. This gets to the kids who need it most— the kids that don’t get out, the kids that don’t have transportation. Some parents told me their kids wouldn’t have lunch without this program.”

Lori, meal delivery driver

“We’re not usually in a bad position. I’m not usually one of the people that need help, but when I needed it, it was there.”

Tiffany, mother of participants
Thank you volunteers and staff!
Without your dedication, these programs would not have been possible. Thank you.