

For Immediate Release

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Go, Lunch! Serves Up A Solution to Summertime Childhood Hunger

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department's Food Office and its partners plan to serve a half million free meals to children throughout Columbus this summer

Columbus, OH—[Go, Lunch!](#), Columbus Recreation and Parks Department's summer food program, will begin the 2022 season on June 6. *Go, Lunch!* offers free, nutritious meals and snacks at over 100 locations throughout the city.

According to Kyra G. Jones, Food Office manager for Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, 40 percent of Ohio students (717,740 children) received free or reduced priced lunch in the 2019-2020 school year. This crisis is worse during the summer months when children no longer have access to school-provided breakfast and lunch.

"*Go, Lunch!* partners with local nonprofit agencies to help provide Columbus-area children with safe places to spend the summer months and get consistent, healthy meals," said Jones. Columbus City Schools, Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services and Directions for Youth and Families are a couple of the many local non-profit agencies and community groups that are supporting the effort.

Last summer and amid the pandemic, more than 245,000 meals were served in the Columbus area to children between the ages of 1-18.

To find a nearby meal site, operating hours and participation information, visit www.GoLunch.club, call 866-3-HUNGRY (for Spanish, call 877-8-HAMBRE) or text 914-342-7744 with a question that contains a keyword such as "food," "summer," "meals," etc.

"It takes a village to meet this need and we have immense gratitude for the many partners and volunteers who join us in our efforts," said Jones.

Go, Lunch! is an initiative of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department and dozens of partner agencies across Franklin Co. The program has been providing children with healthy meals in safe environments since 1970. Together, community partners serve upwards of 472,000 free meals each year at 100+ summer meal sites throughout the city.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Open Sites

The Columbus Recreation & Parks Food Office participates in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Meals will be provided to all children without charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service.

Our Summer Meal Site Finder Interactive Map can be found [here](#). Our serving times for our sites range from 7am - 10am for breakfast, and 11am – 1pm for lunch. *Go, Lunch!* Summer Food Sites will offer meal service from June 6, 2022 – August 19, 2022.

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Closed/Enrolled Sites

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department participates in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Meals will be provided to all eligible children free of charge. Children must meet the income guidelines for reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch Program to be eligible to receive free meals at a residential or non-residential camp. (Income eligibility guidelines for reduced-price meals by family size are listed on the next page.) Children who are part of households that receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, or benefits under the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) are automatically eligible to receive free meals.

Acceptance and participation requirements for the program and all activities are the same for all regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided at more than 100 locations across Franklin County. Our Summer Meal Site Finder Interactive Map can be found [here](#). Our serving times for our sites range from 7am - 10am for breakfast, and 11am – 1pm for lunch. *Go, Lunch!* Summer Food Sites will offer meal service from June 6, 2022 – August 19, 2022.

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REDUCED INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES – 185% Guidelines Effective from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 Households with incomes less than or equal to the reduced-price values are eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits.					
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ANNUAL	MONTH	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY
1	23,828	1,968	993	917	459
2	32,227	2,686	1,343	1,240	620
3	40,626	3,386	1,693	1,563	782
4	49,025	4,086	2,043	1,886	943
5	57,424	4,786	2,393	2,209	1,105
6	65,823	5,486	2,743	2,532	1,266
7	74,222	6,186	3,093	2,855	1,428
8	82,621	6,886	3,443	3,178	1,589
For each additional family member, add	+ 8,399	+700	+350	+324	+162

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