



Health Council Community of Practice (CoP)

Atlee Tyree, Community Engagement Strategist, Office of Strategic Initiatives

Introductions

- Welcome!
- Please type in the chat:
 - Name
 - Your title
 - Organization
 - County
 - What CoP purpose motivates you this morning?



Purpose of the CoP

- **Educate** by collecting and sharing information – from experts as well as from peers
- **Support** by organizing peer-to-peer interactions and collaboration
- **Cultivate** by assisting groups to start and sustain their learning
- **Encourage** by promoting the work of members through discussion and sharing
- **Integrate** by encouraging members to use their new knowledge for real change in their own work

Agenda

- Opening
- Spotlight: Wayne County Health Council
- Breakout Groups
- Announcements
- Closing



“Reduce the distance between idea and action”

- What one ingredient (word) do you think will be most useful to you in 2025...to reduce the distance between idea and action?





**Ending Summer Hunger
for Children in Wayne
County**

Wayne County Collaboration

Marissa Spady, Senior Manager, No Kid Hungry Tennessee

Tony Torres, Food Services Solutions Director, Southwest Human Resource Agency

Shay Smith, Healthy Development Coordinator, South Central Regional Office TN Dept. of Health

Devin Ezell, County Health Dept. Director (Wayne, Lawrence, Giles)

Peyton Russ, Health Educator, Wayne County Health Department

Rena Purdy, Executive Director, Wayne County JECDB (Joint Economic & Community Development Board)

Katherine Morris, Executive Director, Wayne County Library System



From left: No Kid Hungry Senior Program Manager Marissa Spady, Wayne County Executive Jim Mangubat, Wayne County Library System Employee Stetson Luna, Southwest Human Resource Agency Food Service Director Tony Torres, JECDB Director Rena Purdy, and representing the Wayne County Health Council, Public Health Educator Peyton Russ.

Always Start with the WHY?

- 1 in 6 TN children may experience hunger and food insecurity
- Summer is the hungriest time of the year for many students
- Children deserve safe, healthy, and delicious foods to learn and grow into healthy adults.
- This program raises awareness about the nutrition gap low-income children face when schools are closed for the summer.

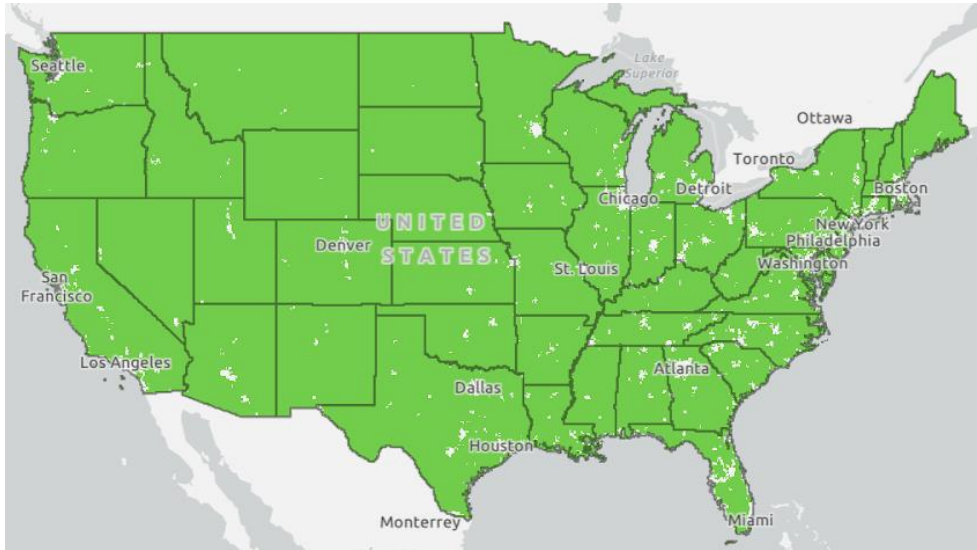
Ending Summer Hunger for Children in Wayne Co.

- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) are federally funded programs established by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to ensure that low-income children continue to receive nutritious meals and snacks when school is not in session.
- These programs provide free meals that meet federal nutrition guidelines at approved, area eligible sites to children 18 years and younger. Sponsors are reimbursed for all meals served.
- SFSP is administered and monitored by Tennessee Department of Human Services and SSO is administered and monitored by the Tennessee Department of Education

USDA Guidance

- December 2022: Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 authorized permanent option for non-congregate summer meals in rural areas without congregate service.
- Winter/Spring 2023: USDA issued temporary guidance based on past pilots to guide summer 2023 implementation in states that opted in.
- December 2023: USDA issued its Interim Final Rule (IFR): Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs.
 - Took immediate effect to guide implementation in Summer 2024
 - Open for public comment until August 27, 2024 to inform a future final rule
- This resource details what's in the IFR. Just want highlights? Our related resource, Interim Final Rule on Non-Congregate Summer Meals: Top Takeaways for Operators, is a 2-page summary of key points with a focus on differences from 2023 guidance.

USDA Rural Designation Map



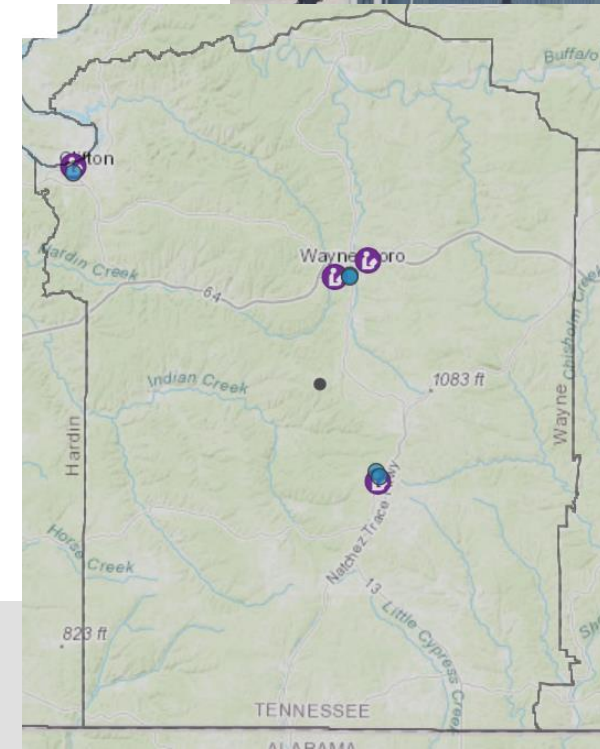
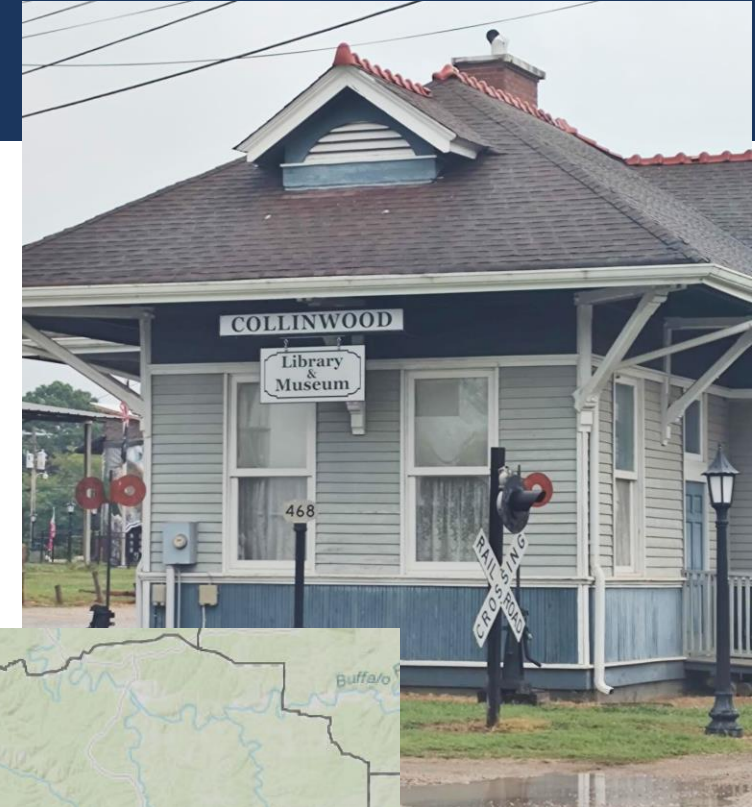
Southwest Human Resource Agency

- Based out of Henderson, TN in Chester County
- Sponsor both CACFP At-Risk After school meals and SFSP Summer Meals
- Provided 5 days of breakfast and lunch meals to children in their area
- Served in 11 counties in Southwest TN
- **SWHRA provided 22,270 meals to 2,227 children in Wayne county over the course of 9 weeks**



Library System

- Jumped on board right away
- 1-hour pick up at each of the 3 libraries throughout the community
- Overall, a very positive experience
- Slight concern over traffic, may need to reroute next year



Marketing

- Chamber of Commerce
- Facebook pages – Monday through Friday (over 3,000 impressions)
- Library pages
- Flyer posted with QR code to register
- Wayne County News (newspaper)
- Big Oldies 930 (radio station)



Free Summer Lunches!

Children under 18 years old can receive 10 prepackaged meals every Friday from June through the first of August

To register please use the QR codes below.
You may only sign up for one location.

CLIFTON LIBRARY	WAYNE COUNTY LIBRARY	COLLINWOOD LIBRARY
		
192 MAIN STREET CLIFTON, TN 12:30 - 1:30 PM	525 US-64 WAYNESBORO, TN 10:45 - 11:45 AM	101 DEPOT ST, COLLINWOOD, TN 9-10 AM
		

SUN SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

For more information:
SWHRA.org/Summer-Food
(731)-983-3751



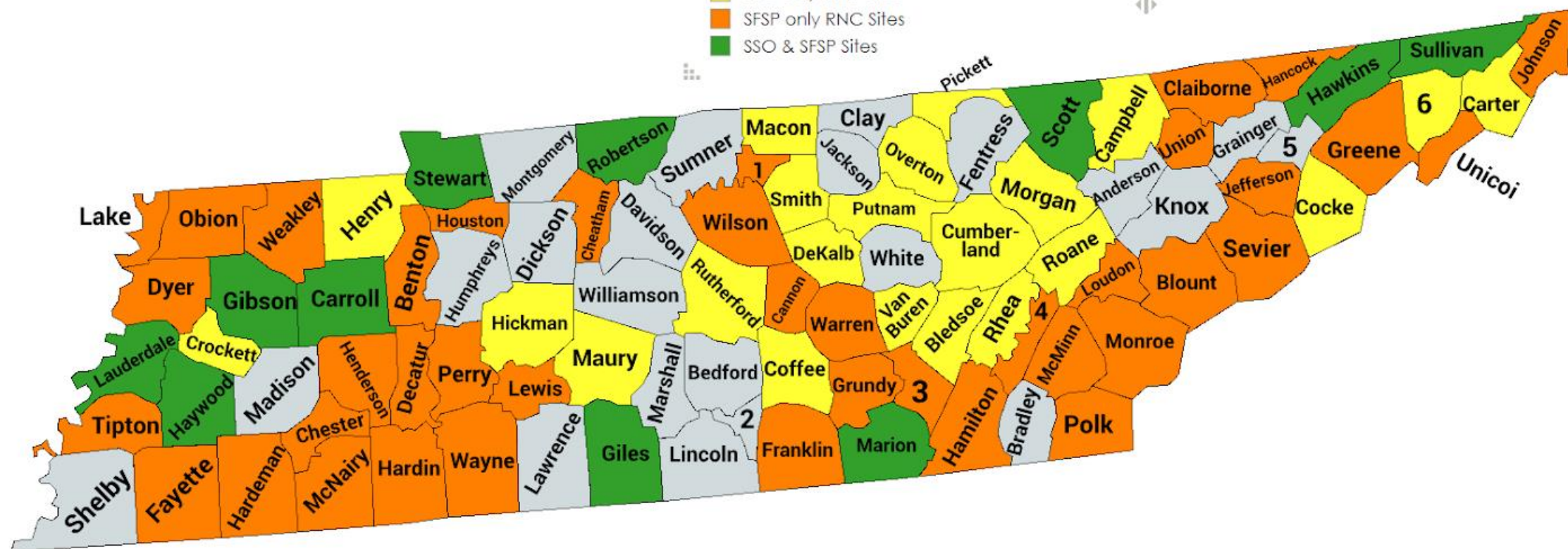
Win-Win-Win for Everyone

- Children received nutritious meals
- Parents were relieved of higher grocery bills during summer months
 - Meals available to all children, reduced stigma
 - Plenty of meals, so not taking away from anyone
- Southwest HRA kept staff employed and hired additional staff to meet the need
- Southwest HRA also were able to receive reimbursements to put back into their program to increase their reach
- Libraries acted as an additional resource to the community
- "especially with prices, in living where we live, we don't have grocery stores that are affordable when you are struggling to pay rent." She especially appreciates the program is "done with class" with SWHRA "reaching out to the community instead of them having to reach out and ask for help." – Kimberly M.- Wayne county parent
- "Super convenient" and a "smooth process." – Sherri R. – Wayne county parent

2024 Rural Non-congregate Summer Meals

Rural Non-Congregate Summer Meals 2024

- SSO only RNC Sites
- SFSP only RNC Sites
- SSO & SFSP Sites



- 1 Trousdale
- 2 Moore
- 3 Sequatchie
- 4 Meigs
- 5 Hamblen
- 6 Washington

How can you end childhood hunger in your community?

- *"It truly took a community to bring the free summer food program to Wayne County."* - County Executive Jim Mangubat
- Every community is unique, but no child should go hungry in the Summer, reach out and let us help connect you!
 - Marissa Spady, No Kid Hungry, mspady@strength.org

Breakout Groups (8 minutes)

- Introduction
 - In alphabetical order, introduce yourself. *(place, organization)*
 - *Connection question: share your “ingredient” that will help you reduce the distance between idea and action in 2025.*
- **Where** do children **gather** in the summer?
- **Who** can help **get the word out** about Summer Meals?
- **Who** can **provide** those meals?

Reflection

- What struck you about the breakout group discussion?
- Additional resource: Tennessee Vitality Toolkit's Nutrition Security Page

NUTRITION SECURITY
In Tennessee

When communities have consistent access to affordable foods and beverages that are nutritionally balanced, culturally appropriate, and fit into their daily lives, they can decrease their risk for chronic disease, improve school and work performance, and prevent ongoing stress.

WHAT IS NUTRITION SECURITY?

Food Availability	Food Utilization	Access to Food	Nutritional Quality of Food	Stability
Have supply chain issues or crop production interfered with my ability to get food?	Do I have education about nutrition and time to prepare meals? Can I exercise my cultural food preferences?	Can I afford groceries? Can I easily travel to purchase food? Is fresh food available in my community?	Is the food available to me both energy-dense and nutritionally balanced? Is my food safe?	Even if I can access and afford nutritionally balanced food today, can I count on it tomorrow?

Over 809,000 Tennesseans deal with limited or uncertain access to food and of them **233,000** are children ¹

Kids who are hungry are at higher risk of behavioral and academic problems ²

Adults who experience nutrition insecurity are **2-3 x** more likely to have diabetes than those who are nutrition secure ³

POLICIES & PROGRAMS

- Nutrition assistance programs like SNAP and WIC help qualifying households buy groceries.
- Seamless Summer Feeding Options allow certain schools to provide free meals to low-income areas during summer vacation.
- Farmers Market Nutrition Programs provide low-income families with fresh, locally grown produce.

PLANNING FOR COLLABORATIVE ACTION

- Connect individuals to direct support through social workers, health workers, and community organizations.
- Partner with a school or neighborhood organization to host a community cooking club with a focus on meals that are quick and easy for working families, or build a community garden.
- Connect community members to nutrition assistance programs like SNAP and WIC, and provide technical assistance with applications.

Barriers to Change

- Stigma against receiving support from food assistance programs
- Weight-related stigma
- Communities lacking affordable fresh foods
- Lack of time for working individuals to plan and prepare balanced meals

Read More Here

¹ Tennessee Department of Health, Healthy People 2020
² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Office of Strategic Initiatives
Tennessee Vitality Toolkit

TN Department of Health

Spring Summits 2025

- Final dates to be announced: mid April – late May
- We need your input!

Input for 2025 CoP Spring Summit
Program



Share-out

- Share any **events** or **resources** you have for the group.



Upcoming Calls

- Thursday, **January 23**, 9:00am CT/ 10:00am ET
 - National Human Trafficking Awareness Month presentation
 - **New links!**



County Health Council Communication

Newsletter



Website



CoP



Closing

- What one thing from today do you want to make sure you remember in 2 weeks?



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Community Engagement Strategist
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Thank you / Questions