



California public library summer meal programs provide children and teens with continued access to free, healthy food and learning opportunities essential to their development while school is out.



183

California public library meal sites

271,030

meals served to children and teens at library and community USDA summer meal sites alongside library services



412

community meal sites offered pop-up library programming

Use QR code to view a map of 2023 Lunch at the Library locations.



According to recent information from the Food and Research Action Center, post-pandemic data shows that only 1 in 6 California children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch also receive summer meals (Food Research Action Center 2023, 10).



10,609

programs at summer meal sites

125,422

books to families



1,287

Farm to summer activities

214

teens worked a total of 18,498 paid hours



767

teens volunteered a total of 12,929 hours

“Lunch at the Library helps greatly with food costs for my daughter, and I love that she’s willing to eat more veggies because it’s at the library...Food is expensive now, so this helps so much...”
Lunch at the Library parent



“A parent shared that the father had recently lost his job and being able to attend Lunch at the Library on a daily basis eased some of their burden...Through this service...they were able to find comfort during a difficult time.”
Orange County Libraries

“I realized how much potential I have in being a leader for those around me. This program allowed me to see that.”
Teen volunteer in youth development program

“Can’t express enough how great it is to have a one-stop location for my kids to participate in activities, interact with kids from different backgrounds, and share a meal with members of the community.”
Lunch at the Library parent

If you want to be a partner or learn more about the Lunch at the Library program, please visit <https://www.library.ca.gov/services/to-libraries/lunch/>