

TO: Tom Markus, Lawrence City Manager  
CC: Diane Stoddard, Lawrence Assistant City Manager  
DATE: 3/14/2017  
FROM: Susan Johnson, K-State Research & Extension  
Paula Murrish, Lawrence Public Schools  
Michael Showalter, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department  
RE: Update on Lawrence Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) planning and  
Cities Combating Hunger through Afterschool and Summer Meal Programs  
(CHAMPS) grant

### Introduction

Kansas currently ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation for feeding kids through the federal Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Although that number fluctuates from year to year, Kansas consistently falls at the bottom of the list. For more than 20 years, community partners across Lawrence and Douglas County have been working to make our community the exception to this rule. Enormous progress has been made in the Lawrence Summer Food Service program during this time. In the summer of 2016, Lawrence Public Schools, Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence and Lawrence Parks & Recreation served a total of 45,296 meals (breakfast and lunch) at 7 community summer feeding sites, as well as numerous enrolled sites.

Despite the enormous success of the Lawrence Summer Food Service Program, we all recognize the opportunity to improve. According to the Kansas Department of Education, 39.30% of USD 497's 12,106 students were approved for free or reduced-price meals in 2015-2016. More than 50% of students in eight Lawrence schools qualified for free or reduced-price lunches during this period. However, for every 100 students served a free lunch during the regular 2014-2015 school year, only 28 received a free lunch during the summer. That's nearly 75% of qualifying Lawrence students who were missed each meal.

### 2017 SFSP

This year, K-State Research and Extension, Lawrence Public Schools, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, the Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority, the City of Lawrence and Lawrence Parks and Recreation, Just Food, the Douglas County Food Policy Council and many other community partners have been working together to ensure that children across Lawrence and Douglas County have year-round access to healthy meals through the SFSP.

Utilizing funding made available through the city-sponsored Cities Combating Hunger through Afterschool and Summer Meal Programs (CHAMPS) grant, and in an effort to increase participation by

Lawrence-Douglas County  
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teens in the Lawrence SFSP, an eighth community summer feeding site will be sponsored at Holcom Park Recreation Center. The SFSP planning team has also been communicating with the owner of BOOM! Comics, a local comic book store near Holcom Park, about opportunities to host SFSP kick-off and “spike” events throughout the summer. The effort to increase participation in the SFSP by middle- and high-school-aged teens will be an ongoing priority of the SFSP planning team.

As part of our efforts to increase the reach of the Lawrence SFSP, the planning team has also been working to take advantage of creative marketing and communications efforts. Last year, the Lawrence SFSP program underwent a dramatic re-branding as the “Fuel Up 4 Summer” program. Promotional materials with the new “Fuel Up 4 Summer” logo were used to advertise summer feeding site locations in all schools across Lawrence. Summer feeding sites were also advertised in the Lawrence Parks and Recreation summer activity guide. This year, Lawrence Public Schools and K-State Research & Extension are working to recreate these efforts. The planning team is also working with the University of Kansas (KU) Big Event, a community-wide volunteer opportunity, to provide targeted marketing/promotion around summer feeding sites with fliers and door hangers. The KU Big Event team has also offered to include SFSP promotional information in information session folders to be distributed to all homes and sites participating in the Big Event.

Through the CHAMPS grant, the SFSP planning team has also been working with researchers at the University of Kansas Work Group for Community Health to coordinate a series of focus groups which will help the planning team identify perceived barriers to participating in the Lawrence SFSP. Focus groups will be conducted with a number of diverse audiences, including teen/youth-specific focus groups to help identify barriers to youth participating in the SFSP.

### **Opportunities for City Assistance**

A frequently-identified barrier to participation in the SFSP is the lack of access to transportation for kids and teens at home during the summer months. Although every effort is made to make summer feeding sites accessible to students across Lawrence, we recognize that not every student is able to arrive at a summer feeding site under their own power. One possible way to address this is to consolidate availability of Student Summer Bus Passes to make them available free-of-charge for all community partners working with youth in our community. Another option, taking into account the relatively small portion of the transit operating budget derived from fares, is to make summer transit free for all youth under 18.



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## Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Totals 2015 & 2016

2015							
Organization	Location	June 2015		July 2015		August 2015	
		Breakfast	Lunch	Breakfast	Lunch	Breakfast	Lunch
Boys and Girls Club	Hillcrest	0	0	0	0	0	0
	New York	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Woodlawn	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Pinckney	1191	3800	782	2553	0	0
	Prairie Park	2155	4547	1464	2931	0	0
	<b>Monthly Totals:</b>	<b>3346</b>	<b>8347</b>	<b>2246</b>	<b>5484</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	2015 Breakfast Totals:	5592					
	2015 Lunch Totals:	13831					
Boys & Girls Club, Parks & Rec							
	South MS/Broken Arrow	2028	6426	1205	4688	0	139
	<b>Monthly Totals:</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>6426</b>	<b>1205</b>	<b>4688</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>139</b>
	2015 Breakfast Totals:	3233					
	2015 Lunch Totals:	11253					
Bert Nash							
	Bert Nash	0	205	0	152	0	0
	<b>Monthly Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	2015 Breakfast Totals:	0					
	2015 Lunch Totals:	357					
Lawrence Parks & Rec							
	East Lawrence Center	0	2006	0	1953	0	438
	Lawrence Public Library	0	2949	0	2898	0	569
	South Park	0	2637	0	1879	0	267
	<b>Monthly Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7592</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6730</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1274</b>
	2015 Breakfast Totals:	0					
	2015 Lunch Totals:	15596					
Lecompton							
	Lecompton	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Monthly Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	2015 Breakfast Totals:	0					
	2015 Lunch Totals:	0					
2016							
Organization	Location	June 2016		July 2016		August 2016	
		Breakfast	Lunch	Breakfast	Lunch	Breakfast	Lunch
Boys and Girls Club	Hillcrest	1289	3098	1010	2894	0	0
	New York	1592	3303	1272	3036	0	0
	Woodlawn	953	2825	856	2609	0	0
	Pinckney	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Prairie Park	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Monthly Totals:</b>	<b>3834</b>	<b>9226</b>	<b>3138</b>	<b>8539</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	2016 Breakfast Totals:	6972					
	2016 Lunch Totals:	17765					
Boys & Girls Club, Parks & Rec							
	South MS/Broken Arrow	0	1817	0	1701	0	250
	<b>Monthly Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1817</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1701</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>250</b>
	2016 Breakfast Totals:	0					
	2016 Lunch Totals:	3768					
Bert Nash							
	Bert Nash	0	228	0	231	0	0
	<b>Monthly Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	2016 Breakfast Totals:	0					
	2016 Lunch Totals:	459					
Lawrence Parks & Rec							
	East Lawrence Center	0	1779	0	1695	0	361
	Lawrence Public Library	0	3534	0	3577	0	817
	South Park	0	2006	0	1719	0	335
	<b>Monthly Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7319</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6991</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1513</b>
	2016 Breakfast Totals:	0					
	2016 Lunch Totals:	15823					

Lecompton	Lecompton	0	133	0	376	0	0
	<b>Monthly Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	2016 Breakfast Totals:	0					
	2016 Lunch Totals:	509					

	Breakfast		Lunch	
TOTALS:	2015	2016	2015	2016
Boys and Girls Club	5592	6972	13831	17765
Boys & Girls Club, Parks & Rec	3233	0	11253	3768
Bert Nash	0	0	357	459
Lawrence Parks & Rec	0	0	15596	15823
Lecompton	0	0	0	509
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>8825</b>	<b>6972</b>	<b>41037</b>	<b>38324</b>
<b>Grand Total 2015:</b>	<b>49862</b>			
<b>Grand Total 2016:</b>	<b>45296</b>			