

2018 No Kid Hungry Summer Meals Texting FAQ

I know there are sites in my area, but they don't show up when I use the hotline.

If sites just began operation, it may be that State Agency data has not yet appeared in the USDA national database of open sites used to populate the texting service. USDA regularly updates this database as information about new sites becomes available, so information about these sites should appear shortly.

For sites that do not appear within 1-2 weeks, they may not participate in the federal summer meals program, or may operate using the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO), which is not captured in the database provided by USDA. SSO sites account for only a small minority of meal site locations. Users who notice inconsistencies in the data over the course of the summer are encouraged to contact texting@strength.org.

I received a text that says there are no sites in my area. Why is that?

There are two likely reasons that no sites are displayed:

1. Sites are operating or will operate, but data from the State Agency is still processing and has yet to appear in the USDA national site database used to populate the texting service.
2. There are no open summer meal sites operating within a 15-mile radius of a given address.

I texted my zip code and received information about sites in another state.

When this occurs, the texting service has experienced an error in geocoding the address linked to a given site. This seems to occur most often in locations where State Agencies have yet to submit site data, and should resolve as information about local sites begins to populate within the online platform.

I received information about sites, but they are ten miles away.

The texting service is programmed to provide information about up to three sites within a 15-mile radius of a given location. In areas where sites are less common, this may lead to results in adjacent communities to those in which users are located.

Will my child need to register at the site to receive a meal?

All results returned through the service are for open summer meals sites and are open to all children 18 and under. Meals are served at no charge, and there is no need to register, sign-in, or otherwise identify oneself.

Who pays for the meals?

All summer meals served to children 18 and under are eligible for reimbursement through federal Child Nutrition Programs of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Additional questions about this service? Drop us a line at texting@strength.org.

