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## **Northern Illinois Food Bank Kicks-off Free Summer Meals Program for Kids, No ID or registration required – walk-ups welcome**

*Food Bank will serve 7,500 free meals to kids and teens daily across 13 counties this summer*

**Geneva, IL (May 30, 2025)** – Summer is often the hungriest time of year for children. While more than 20 million kids rely on free or reduced-price school meals during the academic year, those meals disappear when school lets out, leaving many families struggling to fill the gap.

To meet this urgent need, Northern Illinois Food Bank is once again launching its Free Summer Meals for Kids program, running June 2 - August 15, 2025. In partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education, the Food Bank will provide 7,500 free meals daily to kids across 13 counties in suburban and rural Northern Illinois. No ID, registration, or proof of income is required and walk-ups are welcome. Children must be 18 years old or younger and meals must be consumed on-site.

“Summer meals are a lifeline for families,” said Julie Yurko, President and CEO of Northern Illinois Food Bank. “More than 4,000 schools in Northern Illinois participate in the National School Lunch Program, and over 1 million students - about 51% - rely on free or reduced-price meals during the school year. When school is out, many of these children are at risk of summer hunger. That’s why we’re committed to ensuring every child has the nutritious food they need to grow, learn, and thrive all year long.”

### **Summer Meals for Kids Program (June 2-August 15, 2025)**

Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), these meals are available at eligible sites including parks, libraries, churches, schools, and community centers. Meals must be consumed on-site and are completely free, with no registration, ID, or income requirements.

Northern Illinois Food Bank provides fresh meals at 145 Summer Meal sites across its 13-county service area. All lunches follow USDA meal pattern guidelines and include a grain, protein, milk, and two fruits or vegetables, ensuring kids receive balanced, nutritious meals to support their health and development. Some locations also offer enrichment activities like reading programs, games, and outdoor play, helping kids stay active and engaged while receiving nutritious food.

To find a nearby summer meal site, visit [solvehungertoday.org/child-nutrition-programs](https://solvehungertoday.org/child-nutrition-programs) (click the Summer Meals tab) or call (800) 359-2163. To search for summer meals statewide, visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov/summer/sitefinder>.

Direct link to open walk-up summer meals sites in Northern Illinois (Boone, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Kankakee, Lake, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Will, and Winnebago): [2025 SFSP open sites - Google Drive](#)

### **New in 2025! Family Fresh Mart (June 9 - August 1, 2025)**

This year, Northern Illinois Food Bank is excited to launch Family Fresh Mart, a new mobile summer food initiative replacing Meals on the Move. Open to families with no ID or registration required, Family Fresh Mart brings nutritious boxed lunches for kids and free fresh produce for families to convenient neighborhood locations.

### **Family Fresh Mart Locations & Hours**

- **Tuesdays** at the Addison Public Library, 4 Friendship Plaza, Addison, IL 60101, from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- **Wednesdays** at Lords Park, Elgin, 100 Oakwood Blvd, Elgin, IL 60120, from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- **Fridays** at McCarty Park, Aurora, 350 E Galena Blvd, Aurora, IL 60505, from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM and Plum Park, Aurora, 619 Plum St, Aurora, IL 60506, from 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

### **Summer EBT Gives Families \$120 Boost**

Illinois families can also apply to receive a one-time Summer EBT benefit of \$120 for each eligible child. Benefits are distributed on a pre-loaded electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card and can be used at authorized retail locations, including some farmers' markets. **Summer EBT provides families with a monthly grocery benefit to feed their children for three summer months (June, July, August) when children are not receiving free or reduced-price meals at school.**

For more information about Summer EBT benefit, reach out Northern Illinois Food Bank's SNAP team at 844-600-7627 or [snap@northernillfoodbank.org](mailto:snap@northernillfoodbank.org) – or visit [SolveHungerToday.org](https://SolveHungerToday.org).

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### **About Northern Illinois Food Bank**

For over 40 years, Northern Illinois Food Bank has been dedicated to solving hunger and empowering neighbors. Our vision at [Northern Illinois Food Bank](https://NorthernIllinoisFoodBank.org) is for everyone in Northern Illinois to have the food they need to thrive. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and proud member of [Feeding America](https://FeedingAmerica.org), we serve our neighbors in 13 counties with dignity, equity and convenience, providing 250,000 meals a day. We bring together manufacturers, local and corporate grocers, area farmers, corporations, foundations, and individuals who donate food and funding, and each week nearly 1,000 volunteers help us evaluate, repack, and distribute food. We also proudly partner with more than 900 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and youth and senior feeding programs to provide nutritious food and resources. Our distribution centers are located in Geneva, Lake Forest, Rockford, and Joliet. Find out how you can [get help](https://SolveHungerToday.org), [volunteer](https://SolveHungerToday.org), [donate](https://SolveHungerToday.org) or [get involved](https://SolveHungerToday.org) at [SolveHungerToday.org](https://SolveHungerToday.org), or follow us on [Facebook](https://Facebook.com/NorthernIllFoodBank), [Twitter](https://Twitter.com/NorthernIllFoodBank), [Instagram](https://Instagram.com/NorthernIllFoodBank) and [LinkedIn](https://LinkedIn.com/NorthernIllFoodBank).