
PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, in demonstration of our unwavering commitment to the fight against childhood hunger, Mayor Bruce Harrell and the City of Seattle have joined the Mayors Alliance to End Childhood Hunger – a collective of dedicated city leaders nationwide advocating for effective policies, strategic community partnerships, and essential programs aimed at nourishing our future generations; and
- WHEREAS, the Human Services Department (HSD) of the City of Seattle orchestrates the Summer Meals Program – a testament to the city's dedication to ensuring that no child goes hungry, especially when school meals programs pause for the summer; and
- WHEREAS, despite the sparkling waters and vibrant parks of summer in Seattle, many of our city's children face the harshest time of year, as families grapple with the absence of regular school meals, leading to an increase in food insecurity; and
- WHEREAS, one in six kids in Washington state are food insecure – meaning their families struggle to provide regular access to adequate food; and
- WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated food insecurity, particularly among communities of color and households with children – the effects of which are still being felt by families; and
- WHEREAS, low-income families spend an additional \$300 per month in the summer months to provide food for themselves and their children; and
- WHEREAS, children who are food insecure are more likely to miss school; perform poorly academically; experience social, emotional, and mental health challenges; forgo healthcare; and develop chronic disease; and
- WHEREAS, the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option and the Summer Food Service Program – funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction in Washington – play a vital role in alleviating food insecurity and helping low-income children get the nutrition they need during the summer months; and
- WHEREAS, summer meal programs are most effective when paired with educational and enrichment activities – providing students a fun, safe place to be with friends and stay active, helping curb the learning loss experienced during the summer months, especially among low-income children, and preparing students to return to school ready to learn and thrive; and

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WHEREAS, 2/3 of students in Washington state are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals, yet most of these students do not access summer meals sites in their community; and

WHEREAS, by increasing awareness about the Summer Meal programs through outreach in the community and investing in summer programming to attract more kids to meal sites, Washington can increase access to summer meals programs and ensure that no child goes hungry this summer; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle is strongly committed to ensuring that every child in Seattle has access to nutritious meals this summer and encourages residents to observe this week, increase awareness of childhood hunger issues, engage in community efforts, and help build support for our city's children. For more information about the Summer Meals Program, including meal schedules and locations, call 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 1-877-8-HAMBRE (for Spanish speakers) or visit the United Way King County's Summer Meal Finder at www.uwkc.org/free-summer-meals.

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRUCE A. HARRELL, MAYOR OF SEATTLE, DO HEREBY
PROCLAIM JULY 10 – 14, 2023 TO BE*

SUMMER MEALS AWARENESS WEEK IN SEATTLE



Mayor Bruce A. Harrell
City of Seattle

