



Innovative Partnerships Across the Nation

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Agenda

- Purpose and Strategy Behind Partnerships
- Types of Partnerships
- Case Study Example

Strategy Behind These Partnerships

- Filling the gaps
- Tapping into expertise and lived experiences of partners
- Innovating outreach and sites

Strengths

- **Trusted Messenger** - some partners are trusted messengers for certain groups of the community or the community overall.
- **Geographical Location** - are your sites and where your organization is centralized, accessible, and/or visible?
- **Experience** - Have you operated the program before? Many invaluable insights come from just operating and learning as you go.
- **Established Partnerships** - do you already feel connected to key partners like the state agency, other organizations, or local authorities? These partnerships significantly help with the program.

Gaps

- **Landscape gaps** - not covering and near certain parts of your community
- **Equipment/Resources** - not already having certain equipment and resources others could have (e.g. a kitchen, school bus, etc.)
- **Knowledge** - sometimes there is a gap in landscape knowledge or general knowledge of what our community needs, or what barriers they face. Other partners may know this information already!
- **Staff** - is it challenging to find enough volunteers and/or staff to operate the program? Partners often have connections or volunteers themselves!
- **Administrative Capacity** - in need of funding but don't have time to apply for a grant or figure out how to make the program sustainable? A partner can help out!
- **Promotion/Outreach** - sometimes it's hard to tell where and what can most effectively reach families to promote the program.



Discuss:

What are my strengths and where are the gaps?
What could I accomplish if I fill these gaps?



List out at least three strengths and two gaps.

Partnership #1:

Schools and Community Based Organizations

Community based organizations can partner with schools as local vendors and a summer meal site. Why schools?

- Schools are trusted messengers and visible in the community
- Streamlines site promotion and set-up when the school hosts the site
- Lived expertise to host a site



Example: East Tennessee Human Resource Agency (ETHRA)

Across 5 counties, schools act as meal vendors and host pick up sites, handling registration, food preparation, data collection, and family communication.

- **Flexible for Families** - Families are able to travel to their local school of choice, often from the school that their children already attend.
- **School Support** - Through designated monitors, ETHRA provides training, technical assistance, and regular check-ins - but schools lead the effort.



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ETHRA's Takeaways/Learnings:

- **Learn As You Go** - First-time sites often required additional training and early support, and the first week of distribution brought high demand and logistical learning curves
- **Start Small** - partnering with a handful of reliable schools before expanding.
- **Comprehensive School Support** - Support schools not just as meal distribution points, but as full program vendors—empowering them to manage registration, distribution, and community outreach.
- **Keep the process simple and relationship-driven.**



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Partnership #2:

Libraries

Community based organizations can partner with libraries as a summer meal site.

- **Welcoming, Trusted, Known** - Libraries are open to all and serve as essential community hubs. They welcome children and teens, provide engaging programming, and are a trusted environment.
- **Unique Program Offerings** - Libraries have programs that can draw in individuals and boost participation.
- **New, consistent patrons** – the library attracts kids, teens, and families to the library and its programming
- **Accessible** - bus stops and public transportation near the library
- **Future Opportunities** - Develop future, consistent opportunities for new partnerships with food providers, schools, and childcare programs

Example: Excel by 8 in Southwest Arkansas

Excel by 8 (E8) is a LEARNS Local Lead organization, a coalition that is strengthening early childhood programs through community partnerships.

Conducted Research & Identified the Need

- E8 conducted a community-led research effort and identified food insecurity as a major barrier to child well-being — affecting 18% of children under 18 — so the Excel by Eight Sevier County Alliance mobilized.

Grant Funding Support for Schools

- The community org applied for grant funding for both school districts (county and independent school district in the community).

Coordinating & Filling the Gaps

- E8 worked with the school district to ensure there was continuous coverage for their community coalition that is strengthening early childhood programs through community partnerships.

Community Network of Partnerships

- E8 partnered with schools, libraries, and local organizations in Horatio, Lockesburg, and De Queen worked together to ensure children had access to nutritious meals and more.

Example: Excel by 8 in Southwest Arkansas

- 4 library sites and 1 school cafeteria sites. All filling the gaps and trying to over the district.

Horatio Elementary School Cafeteria

- Monday - Thursday
 - June 19-22 and June 26-29
- Monday - Friday
 - July 17-21 and July 24-28
- Pickup Time:
 - 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Horatio Public Library

- Tuesday (June 20, June 27, July 18, and July 25)
- Thursday (June 22, June 29, July 20, and July 27)
- Pickup Time:
 - 12-2 p.m.

Gillham Public Library

- Tuesday (June 20, June 27, July 18, and July 25)
- Pickup Time:
 - 12-1 p.m.

Lockesburg Public Library

- Wednesday (June 21, June 28, July 19, and July 26)
- Thursday (June 22, June 29, July 20, and July 27)
- Pickup Time:
 - 12-2 p.m.

Winthrop Public Library

- Monday (June 19, June 26, July 17, and July 24)
- Wednesday (June 21, June 28, July 19, and July 26)
- Thursday (June 22, June 29, July 20, and July 27)
- Pickup Time:
 - 12-2 p.m.

Partnership #3:

Community Colleges: Scottsdale Community College (SCC)



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Community Based Location

- Connection with tribe and community to host site seamlessly
- Knowledge of the landscape to ensure site abides with local traffic laws (e.g. traffic from line of cars not obstructing local traffic)
- Trusted messenger for marketing, boosted promotion with location and awareness of the site itself

Operational Expertise

- Experienced from the pandemic in traffic management, safety protocols, and campus police needs
- Experience and investment in marketing and promotion of the program
- Anticipated resources such as chairs, restrooms, tables, and other resources.

Partnership #4:

Local Food Policy Council

Community Based Coalition

- Brings together residents, organizations, and institutions across sectors to build a just and equitable food system.
- Public health, agriculture, governments, non-profits, faith communities, and local community members with lived experience.

Localized

- They typically serve a county or specific region

Purpose and Programmatic Focus

- Strengthening how food is produced, distributed, and accessed by aligning partners.
- They elevate community voices and influence policy and practice.

Coordinating and Collaborating

- Coordinate with existing efforts rather than create new ones.
- Identifying gaps, aligning outreach, and mobilizing volunteers.
- Focus on expanding summer programs through this coordination.

Example: Greenwood Counts Community Consortium's (GC3) Food and Hunger Alliance



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Across South Carolina's lakelands region, Greenwood's local food policy council expanded access to their summer meal programs.

- **Led by United Way of the Lakelands**
- **Surveys and Listening Sessions** - Justo Chalaire, Director of Community Impact and Evaluation from United Way, led research efforts to hear from the community.
- **Met and Collaborated** - GC3 and United Way met and collaborated with Amy Stabler, Greenwood 50's School Nutrition Director
- **Volunteer Support** - had partners and resources to provide volunteers for distribution days when needed
- **Program Promotion** - coordinated community communication, shared posters and flyers, and had sign-ups for more information across partner networks

Example: Greenwood Counts Community Consortium's (GC3) Food and Hunger Alliance

United Way, with GC3's support, created the Greenwood County Food Resource Map.

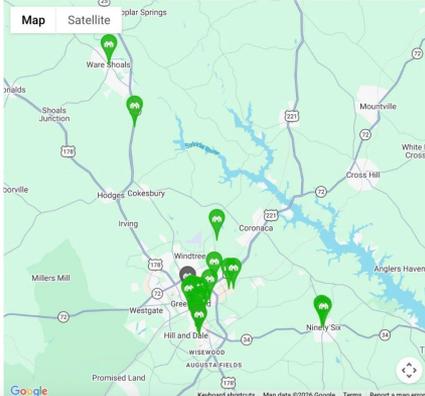
- Updated, mobile-accessible digital tool
- Showed summer meal sites and food pantries
- Provided benefits enrollment assistance

Greenwood Food Resource Map

Show List

Our Local Resource Map is used to assist local community members and organizations in identifying our community assets.

Search Clear



Community Resources

Type	Title	Topics
🏠	Greenwood Soup Kitchen Ministry Inc.	Economy / Food Insecurity
🏠	Immanuel Lutheran Church Food Pantry	Economy / Food Insecurity
🏠	Food Bank of Greenwood County	Economy / Food Insecurity
🏠	Greater Greenwood United	

Partnerships for Student Hiring

Schools, National Honor Society, Local Colleges, Libraries, Churches

Sufficient and sustainable staffing is a common barrier for operating the program. Student volunteers and workers can help with that.

- Cost Efficient
- Program Promotion
- Student Perspective
- Doesn't have to just be students!



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Discuss:

Who can you partner with? Who is established in your community and feeds kids?



Name at least...

- 1 library
- 2 schools
- 1 local food policy council if you know, or search and see if there is one in your district!



Q&A





Thank You for Attending!

Follow-Up Resources: Student Hiring Toolkit:



TEAM NO KID HUNGRY

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Facebook: @NoKidHungryGA

Email Anastasia Tsekeris:

atsekeris@strength.org

Sign up for our Newsletter:





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GEORGIA

Interested in a Summer Grant?

Fill out our inquiry form as a first step in
No Kid Hungry's summer grant
application process

Scan the QR code to access the form!