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A Special Invitation

**End childhood hunger during the summer months**

**Meet Up and Eat Up Forum – January 26, 2016**

More than half of families whose kids eat a subsidized school meal during the school year have a harder time making ends meet during the summer. In Michigan, one out of every five children faces food insecurity. In recent years, partners across the state have made great strides in making sure that more kids have access to free meals during the summer through Meet Up and Eat Up, Michigan’s summer meals program.

By working together, we can use existing funding to make sure that we reach more kids in need with nutritious food. Join No Kid Hungry (NKH), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Michigan Department of Education, the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), and community leaders at a special forum for a collaborative planning session. The forum will provide us a way to strengthen relationships, align resources and strategize about how we can reach more kids with the Summer Food Service Program – known as Meet Up and Eat Up in Michigan!

**What Will We Do?**

Attendees are invited to share knowledge about their community, ideas for feeding kids, and any resources that can help us build on momentum and expand the program this summer.

At the meeting, we will:

* Identify the challenges and opportunities around summer meals for 2016
* Brainstorm ways to overcome those challenges and make the most of opportunities
* Expand the state-wide plan for increasing the number of children eating free meals during the summer in 2016
* Build on current momentum and program growth by bringing new partners to the table

**Who Should Attend?**

Everyone interested in addressing childhood hunger during the summer is encouraged to join this special forum, and we especially hope to hear from the following:

* Community and neighborhood leaders, city or county government officials
* Representatives from schools, including interested principals, teachers, or nutrition staff
* Leaders from any community organization that work with kids after school hours or during the summer
* Those who have used the Summer Food Service Program in the past and who want to continue and expand
* Parents and community members wishing to learn more or influence how and where meals are served

Please forward this invitation and RSVP information to any others that you feel may be interested.

**How Can I Join?**

* Please RSVP by email to Janice Dixon at dixonj5@michigan.gov.The Meet Up and Eat Up Forum will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 2016, from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at the address below. Registration starts at 8:30 am.

**Michigan Department of Education**

**State Board of Education Room – 4th Floor**

**608 West Allegan Street**

**Lansing, Michigan 48933**

For questions, please call 517-373-4013.

* Lunch will be provided.

**An agenda will follow. We hope to see you there!**