



Non-Congregate Summer Meals: Lessons from the First Year of Operations



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HUNGRY FOR ACTION

OKLAHOMA'S ANTI-HUNGER
CONFERENCE 2023

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Rural Non-Congregate Summer Meals

Opportunities, Learnings, &
Strategies to Implement in
Your Own Community



HUNGRY FOR ACTION

OKLAHOMA'S ANTI-HUNGER
CONFERENCE 2023

meet your presenters

Hello, I'm...



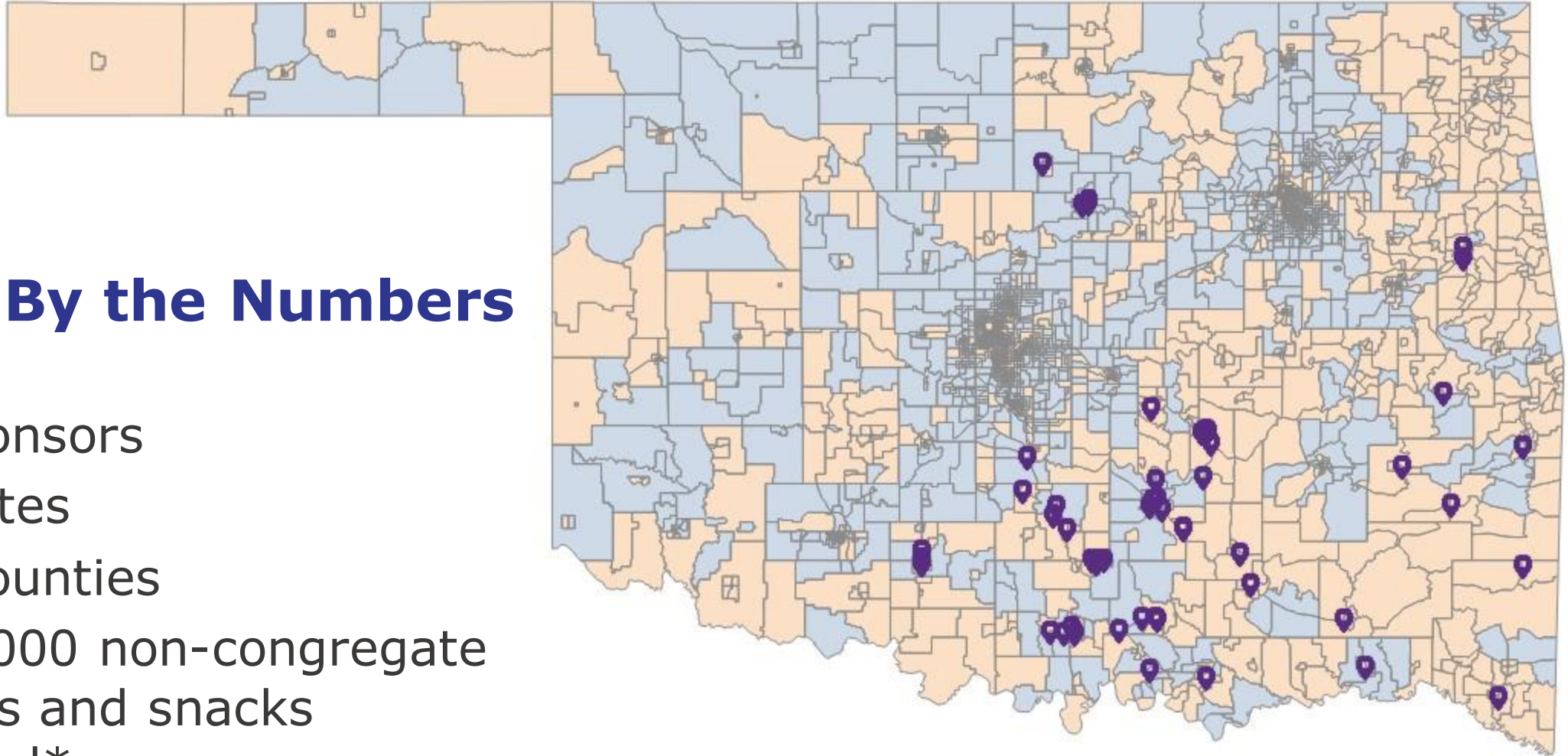
Today's Agenda

- Introduction to rural non-congregate Summer Meals
- Learn about Chickasaw Nation's non-congregate Summer Meals program
- Questions & Answers

Rural Non-congregate Sites

2023 By the Numbers

- 7 sponsors
- 60 sites
- 21 counties
- 431,000 non-congregate meals and snacks served*



*data provided by participating sponsors



Non-congregate Meal Service

Now a permanent option in SFSP
and SSO

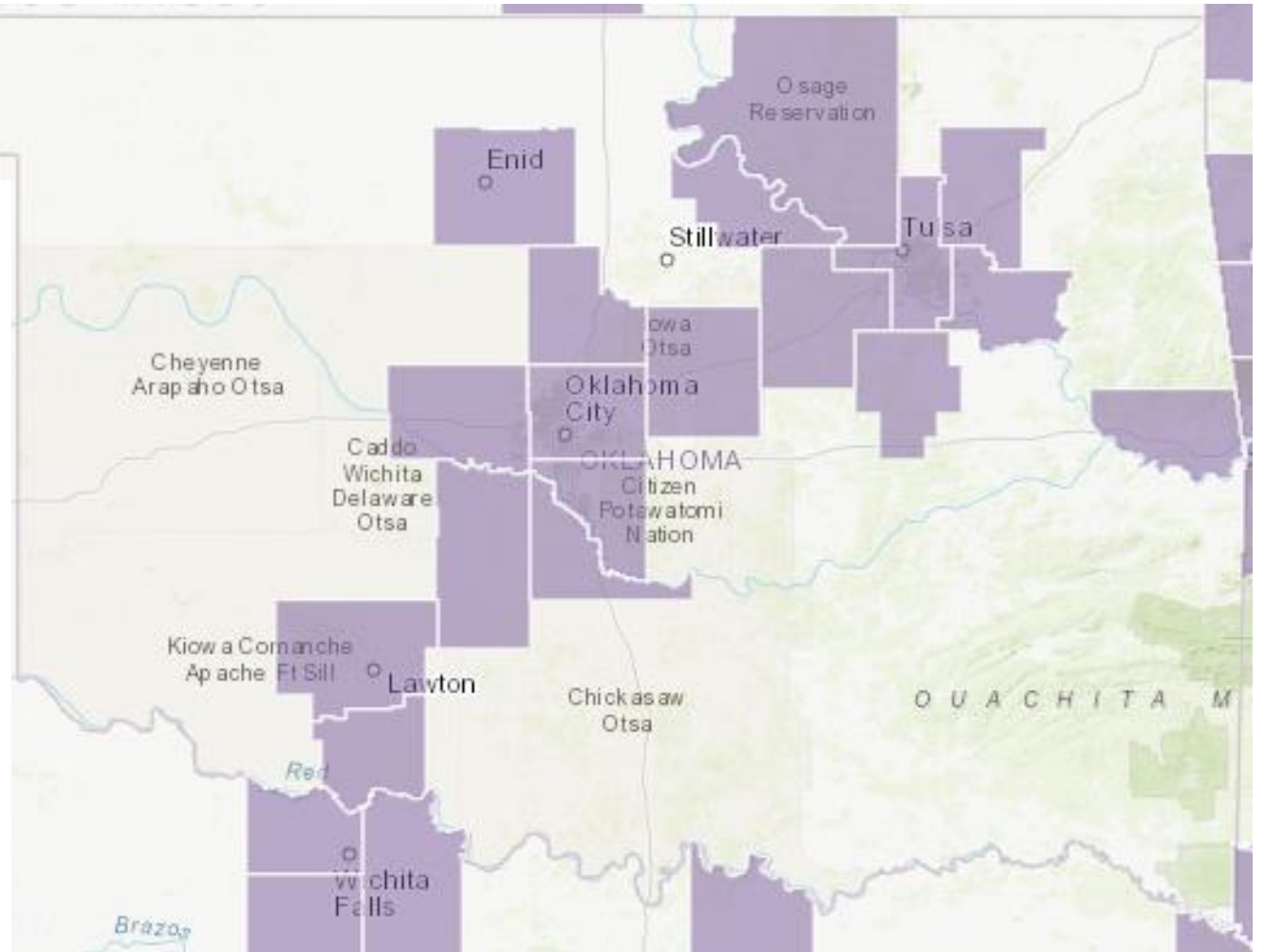
Can only operate in areas designated
as rural by USDA

Meal pick-up and home delivery
options

Sites can serve meals for multiple
days up to 10 calendar days

USDA Rural Designation

USDA FNS defines
“rural” as:
An area in a county
which is not part of a
*Metropolitan
Statistical Area*



Ways to Serve Meals

Meal Pick-up

- Grab-and-go
- Curbside service
- Take home backpacks

Home Delivery

- Completed by mail or delivery service
- Hand delivered by staff



Examples of Allowable Multi-day issuances

Once per week

7 days of meals picked up on Monday

Meals picked up by last name A-F receive 7 days of meals on Mondays. G-K receive seven days of meals on Tuesdays, etc.

Twice per week on Mondays and Fridays

4 days of meals picked up or delivered on Monday
3 days of meals picked up or delivered on Friday

Every two weeks

10 days of meals provided every other week on the scheduled day

Things to Consider

Ensuring Food Safety

- Sourcing optimal food and packaging
- Meeting health and safety requirements
- Including instructions for storage and preparation

Optimizing Service to Families

- Guardian time and availability
- Language and literacy levels of families
- Access to kitchen applicants and tools





Taking Action & Next Steps

1. Identify underserved areas in your community.
2. Engage with your community to learn about interest.
3. Start thinking through logistics that might work for your organization.



*the
Chickasaw
Nation*

Non-Congregate Summer Meals: Lessons From The First Year of Operations

Impa'chi Meals for Kids – Summer 2023
Office of Community Nutrition
Nutrition Services
Chickasaw Nation Department of Health

Impa'chi Meals for Kids Team Summer 2023

Community Nutrition Office:

- One manager
- One coordinator
- Two program specialists
- One warehouse specialist

Continued support:

- Chickasaw Nation Department of Health
- Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services
- Chickasaw Nation Procurement
- Chickasaw Nation Finance
- Chickasaw Nation Fleet Management
- Chickasaw Nation Career Development
- Chickasaw Nation Re-entry Program



Summer 2023

Sites: **46**

Non-congregate: **28 (33 approved)**

Meals served total: **105,693**

Non-congregate: **86,550**

Types of sites:

- Nutrition Centers
- Medical Centers
- WIC Centers
- Libraries
- Public Schools
- Tribal Community Centers
- City/Town Community Centers
- Parks and Rec
- Local Events
- Tribal Housing Complex
- Churches
- Camps
- Summertime Child Care Centers
- Child Care Centers



Non-congregate 2023

Lessons Learned – Sponsor Planning

- MORE
 - Warehouse space
 - Staff
- Non-congregate AND parent pickup AND bulk meals
 - Shelf-stable meals
 - Grab 'n' go, five days worth of meals
 - Breakfast and lunch
- Separate non-congregate application for EACH site
 - Application asks for details of service
- Sponsors can expect to do more trainings and pre-approvals
 - Applications for each site to be non-congregate must be submitted first
- Site approval formula
 - In a rural county + area eligible based on free and reduced status of local school district + not in close proximity to another congregate site
 - No exact mile radius for “close proximity”
 - Area eligibility
 - FRAC & No Kid Hungry Maps (inaccurate)
 - Low-income report
 - Advocate



FY23 SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM Non-Congregate Meal Count Form

This site is allowed to serve up to five days' worth of breakfast and lunch meals per child

Site: Ada NS Supervisor Name (Print): Hilary Brookins

Meal Service Date: 5/22/23 Meal Service Timeframe: 8:00am – 5:00pm

	First & Last Name (print) of Each Child *Parent or guardian may pick up*	Breakfast (check mark per meal)					Lunch (check mark per meal)				
		Today	Each date for next four days				Today	Each date for next four days			
		5/22	5/23	5/24	5/25	5/26	5/22	5/23	5/24	5/25	5/26
1	Bo Summers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Gwen Watson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Tisha Cully	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Dalton Gaines	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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30											
	Daily Totals (# for each day):	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

By signing below, I certify that the above information is true and accurate:

Signature: Hilary Brookins Date: 5/22/23

I understand that this information is being given in connection with the receipt of Federal Funds and that deliberate misrepresentation may subject me to prosecution under applicable State and Federal criminal statutes.

Non-congregate Meal Count Sheet



Non-congregate 2023

Lessons Learned – Sponsor Operations

More! More! More!

- Larger risk/responsibility - higher volume increases likelihood of a review
- Ordering
- School calendar coordination
- Advertising
- Coordination of inventory, orders made, delivery dates, delivery schedules
- High volume deliveries - More skilled delivery drivers
- Warehouse space - More skilled warehouse staff
- Warehouse organization
- Food quality checks
- Site communication
- Organization of documentation
- Tracking down meal counts/inventory
- Data entry from meal count sheets
- Monitoring
- Frustration from staff – burnout



Non-congregate 2023 Lessons Learned – Site Operations

- Every site is unique
- Storage for increased inventory
- Quality checks and expiration dates
- Prepacking assembly line
 - Sturdy bags or double bag (walk-ins)
 - Ensure meal variety
 - Prepacking as much as possible
 - Five days worth of meals – lunch and breakfast
- Staffing – extra hands for packing and car loading
- Meal count sheet – first and last names
 - Important to turn in daily
 - Inventory daily or weekly depending on site
- Everyone trained on operations and civil rights
- Customer service focus
- Sites making quick decisions on their own



Non-congregate 2023 Recommendations

- Location
 - Previous sites
 - Libraries
- Inventory reporting - daily
- Beginning and end dates– make sure to organize
- Preschedule monitoring
- Volunteer or labor pools
- Do not bite off more than you can chew
- Do not double book your staff
- Encourage your teams and sites
- Trust but verify – ask for pictures
- Drive-thru is best
- Encourage sites/staff
- Be mission driven
- Can-do attitude from ALL





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Impa'chi Meals for Kids – Summer 2023

Questions?

Hilary Brookins – Community Nutrition Manager

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Collaborative Learning in ACTION!

Don't forget to visit the
debrief boards between sessions!

Share what you learned and
resources that might help others.



Scan to Give Session Feedback

...and find lots of other resources!



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