



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

March 31, 2017

Dear Texas Library Leaders:

Local libraries hold a special place in the heart of communities across the Lone Star State, as they offer a unique platform for educating children about so many things, including good nutrition. Last summer, more than 100 libraries across Texas participated in the federally funded Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). These libraries made healthy meals a part of their efforts to reach community members through partnerships with local schools and nonprofits. These partnerships came about through SFSP, and libraries offered children 18 years old and younger nutritious meals at no cost to the child. This also served as a way to strengthen the unique connection between families and vital local library resources.

Libraries participating in SFSP help Texas children maintain academic-readiness and be prepared to start school in the fall. SFSP providers enhance student-readiness by offering healthy meals to support Texas children who may be in need. I encourage your library to join TDA in our mission to help children this summer. To explore this option and connect with an SFSP sponsor, please contact your regional TDA office to identify summer sponsors in your area. Contact information is available at [SquareMeals.org/About/ContactFoodandNutrition](http://SquareMeals.org/About/ContactFoodandNutrition).

If you find that an SFSP partnership is not feasible this summer, please join us in ensuring people know how to locate summer meals and nearby meal sites. There are three easy ways families in your area can find a site in Texas: Call 211, text FOODTX to 877-877 or visit [SummerFood.org](http://SummerFood.org). To assist you in increasing awareness of summer meals, TDA has also created outreach materials, including bookmarks. These materials are now available at [SummerFood.org/OutreachTools](http://SummerFood.org/OutreachTools). Please print them and distribute to the families who visit your library.

Thank you for considering an SFSP partnership at your library.

Sincerely,

Sid Miller

SM/WB/kc