

LUNCH AT THE LIBRARY



California public library fall meal programs provide children and teens with continued access to free, healthy food and learning opportunities essential to their development while school is out. Due to the continuance of the COVID-19 pandemic and its related school closures, this year the program continued into the fall and winter months.



145,029

meals served to children and teens by California public libraries



21 California public library meal sites

9 library jurisdictions **8** counties

193

community meal sites offered pop-up library programming

36,961

attendance at pop-up library programs



30 library jurisdictions **18** counties

Lunch at the Library funds helped us to provide our community with hands-on, crucial services promoting much needed literacy and family engagement during these very challenging times.

The library was seen as a steady force in a time of great uncertainty.

Our presence at the meal sites increased attendance for the food distribution. We also raised awareness of library programs.

This year's success story is that these partnerships, some renewed, some new, thrived during a pandemic, a time when resources are essential.



- Participating Public Library Staff

Libraries mobilized to provide families with socially-distanced Lunch at the Library programs amidst the challenges of COVID-19

48,638

take-home STEAM & family engagement activity kits distributed to children, teens, and families

- 29,901 at community meal sites
- 18,737 at library meal sites



42,609

free books distributed

- 37,161 at community meal sites
- 5,488 at library meal sites



For more information on the Lunch at the Library program please visit lunchatthelibrary.org

*Data is current as of 2/1/2021. Lunch at the Library participation data was submitted by 34 California public libraries that participated in the Lunch at the Library fall program. There are 186 public library jurisdictions and 58 counties in California.

The Summer Food Service Program is a program of the United States Department of Agriculture, administered in California by the California Department of Education. Lunch at the Library is a project of the California State Library, supported with funds from the State of California. Lunch at the Library was developed by the California Library Association and the California Summer Meal Coalition, with support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.