



PRESS RELEASE



Free Summer Eats Meal Program Launches in Springfield to Support Local Youth

Springfield, MA - June 10th, 2024

With the school year ending, free Summer Eats meals will begin soon on Thursday, June 20th, in Springfield! All kids and teens 18 and under can eat meals for free; no sign-up is required, and no questions are asked. Just visit the Summer Eats sites throughout the summer at the time listed on our website.

This summer, kids and teens eat free at meal sites throughout Springfield! Kids and teens must be present to receive a meal and are required to eat on-site. Many sites will host fun, kid-friendly activities throughout the summer! For more information on fun activities and to track down our food truck, follow Home Grown Springfield on social media @homegrownsps or visit our website at www.homegrownspringfield.org

"We're excited to kick off the Free Summer Eats meal program in Springfield," said Sodexo's Director of Operations and Communications Lydia Rodriguez. "Hunger doesn't take a summer vacation, and neither do we. By providing free meals, we give our children the chance to enjoy their summer break without the worry of food insecurities and where their next meal will come from."

Summer Eats – Free Meals for Kids & Teens

- Home Grown Springfield, the Culinary & Nutrition Program of Springfield Public Schools, will make and distribute Summer Eats meals across the city this summer.
- Each summer, Home Grown Springfield's Summer Eats program lessens the summer hunger gap by increasing access to free meals for kids and teens.
- Home Grown Springfield provides lunch Monday through Friday for children and teens 18 and under at no cost. No registration or identification is required.

"By providing free meals during the summer, we are making a significant investment in our children's well-being. It's a simple act with profound impacts, ensuring no child goes hungry in our community," said Sodexo's Resident District Manager Roger Weger. "This initiative underscores our unwavering commitment to ensuring that children and teens in our community have access to healthy meals, especially when school is out. We encourage families to take advantage of this valuable resource and visit our Summer Eats sites."

Chase the Flavor: Follow the Summer Eats Food Truck

From June 20th to July 5th, the Springfield Summer Eats food truck will hit the road, bringing nutritious meals directly to the community during the early days of the summer. The vibrant food truck will make daily stops at Hubbard Park, Nathan Bill Park, Ruth Elizabeth Park, and Van Horn Park to serve lunch. The service will run Monday through Friday. For more information on serving times, visit www.homegrownspringfield.org.

Summer Kickoff Family Picnic: Jaime Ulloa Park, Morgan Street

On June 21st, the Home Grown Springfield Sodexo team will join the New North Citizens Council for a summer kick-off family picnic in the park between 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm. Join us for free meals, games, giveaways, entertainment, community resources, and more.

Are you a community organization looking to become a meal site for summer 2024? If an organization is interested in becoming a meal site for summer 2024 or if you have questions and want to learn more about the program, call 413-787-7111.

About Springfield Public Schools

The Springfield Promise: Springfield Public Schools are world class learning environments that produce 21st century leaders. Students will graduate from high school College and Career ready. The school district attracts knowledgeable, highly effective and diverse teachers and principals who want to work in a high performing district. Parents and community members are moving into Springfield for the privilege of sending their students to schools that are thriving in a culture of equity and proficiency.

About Home Grown Springfield

Home Grown Springfield is the food service program of Springfield Public Schools, which works to make the highest quality school meals for Springfield students. Home Grown Springfield seeks to continually improve the quality of school meals by making culturally relevant, scratch-made foods and utilizing local ingredients whenever possible. By providing nourishing meals for students and expanding learning opportunities through farm-to-school programming, we seek to fuel academic achievement in and beyond school. Sodexo is the contracted service provider for Home Grown Springfield, bringing quality of life services to the Springfield Public Schools community.

About Sodexo

Founded in 1966 by Pierre Bellon, Sodexo is the global leader in services that improve Quality of Life, an essential factor in individual and organizational performance. Operating in 80 countries, Sodexo serves 75 million consumers each day through its unique combination of On-site Services, Benefits and Rewards Services and Personal and Home Services. Through its more than 100 services, Sodexo provides clients an integrated offering developed over 50 years of experience: from food services, reception, safety, maintenance and cleaning, to facilities and equipment management; from Meal Pass, Gift Pass and Mobility Pass benefits for employees to in-home assistance, child care centers and concierge services. Sodexo's success and performance are founded on its independence, its sustainable business and financial model and its ability to continuously develop and to engage the commitment of its 425,000 employees throughout the world. Sodexo is a member of the CAC 40 and DJSI Indices.

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Site Type	Site Name	Site Address	Start Date	Days	Breakfast Serving Times	Lunch Serving Times
City Park – Food Truck	Hubbard Park	205 Parker St, Springfield, MA 01151	20-June	Mon-Fri	N/A	10:00 am – 10:30 am
City Park – Food Truck	Van Horn Park	494 Armory St, Springfield, MA	20-June	Mon-Fri	N/A	10:40 am – 11:10 am
City Park – Food Truck	Ruth Elizabeth Park	119 Walnut St, Springfield, MA 01105	20-June	Mon-Fri	N/A	11:20 – 11:50 am
City Park – Food Truck	Nathan Bill Park	149 Plumtree Rd, Springfield, MA 01118	20-June	Mon-Fri	N/A	12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

Site Type	Site Name	Site Address	Start Date	Days	Breakfast Serving Times	Lunch Serving Times
Neighborhood	Bay Meadow Apartments	100 Bay Meadow Rd, Springfield, MA	24-June	Mon-Fri	N/A	12-12:30 pm
School	Boland Elementary School	426 Armory St, Springfield, MA, 01104	8-July	Mon-Thur	N/A	12:00-1:pm
School	Brightwood/Lincoln Elementary School	255 Plainfield St, Springfield, MA 01107	8-July	Mon-Fri	N/A	12:00-1:pm
School	Brookings Elementary School	433 Walnut St, Springfield MA 01105	8-July	Mon-Thur	N/A	12:00-1:pm
School	Central High School	1840 Roosevelt Av, Springfield, MA 01109	24-June	Mon-Thur	N/A	12:00-1:pm
School	DeBerry Swan Elementary School	680 Union St, Springfield, MA 01109	8-July		N/A	12:00-1:pm
School	Dorman Elementary School	20 Lydia St, Springfield, MA 01109	8-July	Mon-Thur	N/A	12:00-1:pm
Community Organization	The Gray House	22 Sheldon Street, Springfield, MA	8-July	Mon-Fri	9:00-9:30	12:30-1:00
City Park	Hubbard Park	205 Parker St, Springfield, MA 01151	8-July	Mon-Fri	N/A	12:15-1:15
City Park	Jamie Ulloa Park	22 Morgan St, Springfield, MA 01107	21-June, Only	Mon-Fri	N/A	2:00-5:00
Community Organization	Lower Liberty Heights Neighborhood Council	233 Franklin Street Springfield MA 01104	8-July	Mon-Fri	9:00-10:30	12:00-1:30
City Park	Nathan Bill Park	149 Plumtree Rd, Springfield, MA 01118	8-July	Mon-Fri	N/A	12:15-1:15
Neighborhood	Reed Village Apartments	49 Lionel Benoit Rd, Springfield, MA 01109	8-July	Mon-Fri	N/A	11:45 - 12:15
Neighborhood	Robinson Gardens Apartments	34 Robert Dyer Circle, Springfield, MA	8-July	Mon-Fri	N/A	11:00-11:45
City Park	Ruth Elizabeth Park	119 Walnut St, Springfield, MA 01105	8-July	Mon-Fri	N/A	11:00-12:00
Neighborhood	Spring Meadow Apartments	176 Cannon Cir, Springfield, MA 01118	8-July	Mon-Fri	N/A	11:30-12:00
Community Organization	Springfield Boys & Girls Club	481 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104	24-June	Mon-Fri	N/A	11:30-12:30
Neighborhood	Sullivan Housing Apartments	160 Nursery St, Springfield, MA	8-July	Mon-Fri	N/A	12:30-1:15
City Park	Van Horn Park	494 Armory St, Springfield, MA	8-July	Mon-Fri	N/A	11 am-12 pm
School	Van Sickle/Renaissance School	1170 Carew St, Springfield, MA 01104	24-June	Mon-Thur	N/A	12-12:30 pm