**Partnerships for Programming**

**Importance of Programming**
One of the best ways to make a Summer Meals site successful is to offer programming which helps engage children and increase participation. Enrichment activities give the site a judgment-free atmosphere, making it more likely to attract and retain kids. Reach out to organizations in your community to arrange programming. This can be a regular occurrence or a special event. Just make sure to advertise so kids and families know about it. Listed below are a few groups to reach out to; others include banks, universities, and local stores or farms.

**Nutrition Educators:**
Nutrition educators can offer cooking demonstrations, healthy snack instruction, and other fun activities. Through this interaction children will develop positive attitudes around nutritious meals.

* **UMaine Cooperative Extension**The University of Maine’s Cooperative Extension has Eat Well Nutrition Educators who can provide nutrition education at sites. They also run the 4H program which focuses on youth development. There are offices all over the state. Find yours at: <http://extension.umaine.edu/county-offices/>
* **Healthy Maine Partnerships**The Healthy Maine Partnerships have SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educators who can perform nutrition education at sites. Many of these partners can also fund supplies or items related to physical activity. There are HMP offices all over the state. Find yours at: <http://www.healthymainepartnerships.org/Local_Partnerships.aspx>

**Fire and Police Departments**
Bring in the local police and fire departments to provide safety education. This can range from fire to bike safety.

**Animal Welfare Society**
The Animal Rescue League, Animal Welfare Society, or local humane society can come to the sites with rescue dogs or cats for the kids to get to know and play with. The welfare society can provide education on animals.

**Libraries**
Recruit your local libraries to come read at your sites and to spread the word for you. In turn, you can promote their events at your site.

