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Press Release

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Fresno County Public Library Joins the Fight against Summer Hunger

The Fresno County Public Library is proud to announce the expansion of the **Lunch at the Library** program. The **Lunch at the Library** program will distribute free meals to youth throughout the summer at the following library locations: Central, Caruthers, Fowler, and Sanger Branch Libraries. Weekdays from June 16th to August 8th anyone, regardless of income, between the ages of 1-18 can eat a healthy lunch for free. Provided by program sponsor Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission, nutritional meals are available on a first come, first served basis.

The **Lunch at the Library** program, in partnership with the California Library Association and the California Summer Meal Coalition, brings together the Library's longstanding summer reading tradition with a lunchtime meal, in an effort to combat summer learning loss and summer hunger.

Studies show that malnourishment can diminish a child's overall learning potential. Of the Fresno County children who are eligible for free lunches during the school year, just 1 in 10 has access to a similar program during the summer. Additionally, children who do not read over the summer lose an average of one month of academic progress. By

middle school, those who have not read during summer breaks may have lost as much as two years' worth of achievement.

"We are pleased to expand the *Lunch at the Library* program to four locations this year." said County Librarian, Laurel Prysiazny. "The Library can provide the sustenance for both mind and body as well as fight summer learning loss through the **Lunch at the Library** and FCPL's Summer Reading Program."

Lunch Schedule by branch:

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| • Caruthers Branch Library | Monday - Thursday | 12-1pm |
| • Central Library | Monday – Friday | 12-1pm |
| • Fowler Branch Library | Monday – Friday | 1-2pm |
| • Sanger Branch Library | Monday – Friday | 12-1pm |

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