

2022 SummerMeals4NCKids Internship

Posting: Swain County Schools

The Carolina Hunger Initiative is a project based at the Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Its mission is to improve access to healthy meals year-round for North Carolinians.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly 60% of public school students in North Carolina were eligible for free and reduced-price school meals. During the summer months, many children lose access to these meals which may put them at higher risk of food insecurity and poor nutrition. Federal summer nutrition programs reimburse organizations for providing free, healthy meals to children and teens in low-income areas during the summer when they are not in school. These programs are highly underutilized compared with school meals programs.

The Carolina Hunger Initiative, in partnership with the NC Department of Public Instruction, will be offering a new internship program for college students to support the summer nutrition program during the summer of 2022. Interns will be hired as paid employees of the Carolina Hunger Initiative and will be placed with NC Summer Nutrition Program Sponsors. Most of the time will be focused on projects/activities with the sponsor, but interns will also participate in orientation/training, weekly check-ins, and projects with the Carolina Hunger Initiative team.

Position Overview

This position will work with Swain County Schools. The position will need to learn to effectively use meal reporting software; help with serving and delivering meals to students during summer school and at various community meal sites; assist with getting the word out to the public to encourage families to take advantage of meals being offered; and assist the Director of the program with effectively implementing the Summer Nutrition Program.

Primary work location: The main office is located at 50 Main Street, Bryson City. Swain County Schools will be operating three schools: Swain High School- 1415 Fontana Road, Bryson City, NC, East Elementary at 4747 Ela Road and West Elementary School at 4142 Highway 19 West

Time Commitment

Orientation

Orientation will take place with the Carolina Hunger Initiative team prior to starting the internship.

Internship schedule with sponsoring organization

Anticipated start and end dates: Summer feeding will run from June 6-August 5, 2022. The start and end dates are flexible, but starting the week prior to summer feeding would be appreciated to help with promotion and learning a new software program.

Anticipated weekly schedule: The weekly schedule may vary from week to week. The intern would likely spend part of their time in the main office and part of their time in the cafeteria. The office is open Monday-Thursday from 6am-4pm and the cafeteria is open Monday-Friday from 7am-2pm.

Weekly Internship responsibilities with CHI team

Interns will spend at least 2 hours per week on activities for the CHI team including completing a weekly report and participating in a weekly check-in meeting. Interns will also work on at least one small project with the CHI team over the course of the internship.

Duties may include

- Developing and/or distributing promotional materials for the Summer Nutrition Program
- Developing and implementing social media campaigns
- Planning/implementing kick-off events, spike events, or end of summer celebrations
- Taking pictures/videos at meal sites and summer meals events
- Helping to prepare or package summer meals
- Distributing summer meals
- Using Cartwheel to track meals distributed
- Serving as site supervisors
- Providing nutrition education activities to children at meal sites
- Creating nutrition education materials to distribute to children and families
- Planning and/or implementing enrichment activities for meal sites
- Planning and/or implementing activities for Farm to Summer Week
- Using the NC Capacity Builder map to identify areas potential areas for new summer meals sites
- Gathering feedback from children and families on the program
- Developing resources to highlight/share program successes
- Helping with training program volunteers/staff
- Helping teach staff new skills that can benefit the program such as using the NC Capacity Builder map, using social media for promoting summer meals, etc.
- Other duties as assigned

Qualifications

The internship is open to college students. Students must have been enrolled in a community college, college, or university during the 2021-2022 academic year. Interns must be at least 18 years old.

The ideal candidate will have:

- Interest in child nutrition and addressing food insecurity
- Knowledge of and/or experience with school and/or summer nutrition programs, such as having participated in the programs
- Familiarity with the community where the internship is located
- Commitment to working with diverse communities
- Positive attitude and willingness to work on a variety of projects
- Dependability, responsibility, and adaptability
- Organizational skills
- Good interpersonal skills
- Ability to work both independently and part of a team
- Ability to follow program guidelines
- Reliable access to transportation to travel to sites within the community where they will be working

Compensation/benefits

- Paid hourly rate of \$15/hour
- Reimbursement for mileage for travel for any necessary travel between work site and other locations, not including daily commute to worksite
- Training, professional development and networking opportunities
- Opportunity to gain new skills and experiences and learn more about child nutrition, food insecurity, summer nutrition programs and potential career paths related to those areas
- Part of a cohort with other college student interns

Additional Information

For more information, contact Jessica Soldavini, PhD, MPH, RD, LDN at Jessica6@live.unc.edu.