



Healthy Meals Incentives Grantee Communications Toolkit

TALKING POINTS

- When we strengthen school meal quality, we strengthen child health. Research shows school meals are the healthiest meals in a day for most kids.
- The USDA Food and Nutrition Service's Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative seeks to improve the nutritional quality of school meals through food systems transformation, school food authority recognition and technical assistance, the generation and sharing of innovative ideas and tested practices, and grants.
- As part of a cooperative agreement to implement the USDA's Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative, Action for Healthy Kids has awarded nearly \$30 million in grants to 264 school districts across 44 states and the District of Columbia.
- The Healthy Meals Incentives grants are the largest targeted investment that USDA has ever made for school meal programs in small and rural communities.
- As part of the grant program, Action for Healthy Kids and its partners will provide in-depth individualized technical assistance to support and guide the implementation of key strategies to improve school meal quality.