**Supplementary Table 1: Sample Interview Questions for Semi-Structured Interviews and Focus Groups with Key Stakeholders and Parents regarding School Meal Service and Participation, San Joaquin Valley, California, June-August 2020**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question Purpose** | **Questions for school district staff (food service directors and superintendents)** | **Questions for Parents** | **Questions for Partner Organizations** |
| **Service during non-instructional periods** | * Some schools are finding it hard to serve meals all summer long. Can you tell me how things are going, and any challenges you have faced?
	+ *If not planning to serve meals all summer*: What would you need to provide meals the entire summer?
	+ How do you think participation rates are going to look / do look during summer?
* We understand in the San Joaquin Valley it’s very hot during the day. What have you done to avoid spoilage?
 | * What has made it easy to get meals from school while schools are closed for COVID-19?
* What has made it hard to get meals from school while schools are closed for COVID-19?
* How did you find out about school meals in your community?
* Which type of communication was most helpful to learn about school meal updates?
 | * Your school district has/has not been able to serve recently. How has this impacted your community/ programming?
 |
| **Strategic community partnerships** | * Can you please describe any important partnerships that you developed with external organizations (e.g., local food banks, libraries, community organizations)
	+ How did these partnerships support you with summer meal outreach?
	+ How, if at all, did these partnerships help to boost participation in your programming?
 | * Can you please describe any other resources or services that you received when accessing school meals? (e.g., diapers, books)
 | * Can you please describe your partnership with the school district to support school meals?
 |
| **Children and Families’ Needs** | * How did your program assess and respond to the needs of children and families during the pandemic?
 | * Tell me your experience with the school meals - how did your school district do in responding to the food needs of your family?
* Sometimes schools aren’t serving meals during breaks - what have you all been doing to supplement during the times when schools aren’t serving? (e.g., pantry food, to go meals, hot meals)
 | * How did your organization assess and respond to the needs of children and families?
 |
| **Pandemic EBT** | * How has Pandemic EBT affected your program?
* What has been your role in informing parents about Pandemic EBT?
 | * Did you receive Pandemic EBT cards for your children? Can you tell me about your experience using Pandemic EBT cards?
* Did you already use up all of the benefits on your Pandemic EBT cards?
 | * What has been your role in informing parents about Pandemic EBT?
* What do you think is needed to improve outreach about Pandemic EBT ?
 |
| **Future Plans**  | * Can you please tell me about your district’s plan for serving meals this fall? How prepared do you feel? What challenges do you anticipate?
* Over the course of the next school year: what is your biggest concern in terms of meeting the needs of kids in your district/area?
 | * What are your concerns about accessing school meals in the fall?
* What would make it easier to get school meals, or more likely for you to participate?
 | * Can you tell me how or if your organization plans to partner with the school district to provide meals this fall?
 |
| **Lessons learned** | * We’ve talked a lot about the challenges and the successes of your district’s meal program during the pandemic. To sum up: what is one key lesson learned that you would want to share with other food service directors?
 | Of all the things you have told me today, what is the one thing that you think would really help families to take advantage of the meals during this time? |  |