

# Redlands children can get free barbecue all summer long

*By Kristina Hernandez, Redlands Daily Facts*

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(REDLANDS, CA) The city and school district plan to expand a program that provides nourishing meals for local children thanks to a \$30,000 grant from a national organization.

Starting June 12, two mobile kitchens in north Redlands will serve grilled hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hotdogs and “rib-a-q” sandwiches to children under age 18.

The free barbecue lunch program is a collaboration between the Redlands Parks and Recreation Department and Redlands Unified School District.

Families do not need to submit applications for the program, which will provide children with meals at no cost. Lunches will be served at Redlands Community Center, 111 W. Lugonia Ave., and Redlands Community Park, 1535 N. Church St.

The city has been “actively involved” in a summer nutritional meal program for five years, according to Dave Jaffe, a recreation coordinator for Redlands. On average, he said, about 300 meals have been served each day at the Community Center. Setting up a second location will address additional needs in the community.

“We identified Community Park would be a good location and would help us reach out to other aspects of the city, especially for children that might not have easy access to the community center,” Jaffe said. “By doing this, we are providing kids access to real food rather than having them rely on vending machine options.”

Lunches will be served from noon to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Community Center through Aug. 4 and at Community Park through July 28. Each entree comes with fruit and vegetables, and a choice of either milk or water.

The program got a boost from the National League of Cities, which selected Redlands to participate in the 2016-17 Cities Combating Hunger through Afterschool and Summer Meal Programs (CHAMPS), [according to the city](#). As a result, Redlands received a \$30,000 grant to purchase necessary equipment for the program, Jaffe said.

To learn more about the barbecue lunches, call 909-798-7579.