Tips for Success  
for hosting a Family Meal Service*

This year, my FCCLA students are offering a once-a-month meal (serves 4-6 people) that community members can purchase for $15 to take home and enjoy with their families.

- Collaborate with local grocery stores, and your school foodservice department to find bargains and discounts on your bulk supplies.
- Organize your grocery supply list in order of the store, to make shopping more efficient!
- Set an ordering deadline to simplify the process – our deadline for each month’s meal is the 1st of the month.
- Schedule “pick up dates” for community members to pick up their meals at your facility.
- Ask a local donor/sponsor to supply insulated shopping bags so that families can transport the food home safely, whether it’s a cold or hot dish!
- Provide the recipe and nutrition facts label with each meal.
- Use Google apps to make this process easier (the sign up is on a Google Form, we use Google Calendar reminders about the pick-up date, and send the recipe sheet through Google Docs as well).
- Send out an online evaluation to ask the participants if they enjoyed the meal and how the ordering/pick up process could be improved.

*To use this service as a way to promote FCS Day, use the Dinner Tonight card developed by AAFCS and The Family Dinner Project. It provides a recipe, game, and conversation starter. The meal you serve can be the recipe on the card or you can choose to serve a different recipe. You can also provide families with FCS Day stickers and flyers!