Interview Questions

1. Tell me about your organization and the programs you offer.
   1. What populations does your program or organization serve?
   2. What are the geographic boundaries of the area your programs serve?
   3. Do you offer programs year-round or just during particular time periods?
   4. Do you offer summer programs?
   5. How does participation in school-year programs compare to participation in summer programs?
      1. Why do you think there is a difference? (if applicable)
   6. Does your organization conduct any outreach for other programs or services (e.g., SNAP) in the community?
2. Now I would like to ask you a few questions about participation barriers and strategies.
   1. Of all the people you target with your programs, which groups do you have the most challenges engaging? (e.g., families? children? adults with or without children? older adults? younger adults? etc.)
   2. Why do you think these particular groups participate less than others?
   3. What strategies have you found to be successful at reaching or engaging the harder to reach populations/clients?
   4. What do you think are the biggest barriers your clients experience to accessing the services and programs they need to help their families?
   5. If cost or feasibility were no object, what strategies, services, or programs do you think would most help them overcome these barriers?
3. Let’s discuss child nutrition programs specifically (if applicable).
   1. What barriers do children and families experience that may limit their participation in summer food programs?
   2. What efforts, if any, is your agency making to encourage more children to participate in child nutrition programs?
      1. During the school year?
      2. In the summer?
   3. What other resources are available in your community that low-income families might be accessing to provide for their families’ food needs in the summer if they are not participating in the summer nutrition programs for which they are eligible?
   4. What additional programs, services, or strategies do you think would have the greatest impact on children’s participation in summer nutrition programs in your community, specifically, the Summer Food Service Program?
4. To help me develop a more general understanding of your community, tell me about the broader factors at play in your community that impact your work, even if indirectly. (e.g., substance abuse, homelessness, lack of transportation, crime/safety, etc.)
5. Is there anything else you can think of that might be helpful to my understanding of the people, services, or issues affecting low-income families in your community? (In other words, is there anything that I didn’t ask that you think is important?)
6. Is there anyone else that you would suggest I talk to about this?
7. Finally, are there any events, agencies, or locations in your area would you suggest we go to in order to conduct surveys with families whose children qualify for the summer food program?