

# Welcome!

We'll get started soon. While we wait for other attendees to join, please answer one or both questions in the chat box:

What is your favorite summer snack?

What is a popular snack in your community?



**Rural Communities  
Paving the Way:  
Innovation &  
Promising Practices  
in School Meals**

May 24, 2023





## Things to Know as We Begin

- The slide deck will be shared via email after the webinar along with the recording.
- To engage with other attendees, please use the chat box.
- If you have questions for the speakers, please enter those into the Q&A box.
- Closed captioning is available.





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# Agenda

Poll question

Speaker Introductions

Speaker presentations

Resources

Q&A

Survey

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# Panelists

Gay Anderson, SNS, Child Nutrition Coordinator,  
Sioux Falls School District , SD

Andrea Kruse, MS, RDN, LN  
Child Nutrition Director, Brandon Valley School District  
SD

Silke West, Food Service Director at Sinton ISD  
TX

Mia Medina, Senior Program Manager, No Kid Hungry,  
TX

# Shared Services: Dakota 10 Model



Gay Anderson, SNS  
Child Nutrition Coordinator, Sioux Falls School District



Andrea Kruse, MS, RDN, LN  
Child Nutrition Director, Brandon Valley School District

# SIoux FALLS

- District Size: 25,000 plus students
- Schools: 34 sites plus daycare & contracted meals
- Secondary schools: Full service
- Elementary schools: Delivery from Central Kitchen
- Lunch ADP: 15,450 (Open campus for 4000 students)
- Breakfast ADP: 4460



# The Beginning of a Dream

- Rural districts need help.
- What to do to make it possible.
- Funding – How would this work?
- Meeting and sharing the dream with NKH.
- NKH comes to visit.
- Partnering with the districts.
- Agreements signed.
- Assistant Director / Registered Dietitian hired.
- The dream becomes REALITY!



# BRANDON VALLEY

- District Size: 5,000 students
- 8 schools / 8 full-service kitchens
- Breakfast ADP: 810
- Lunch ADP: 3,400



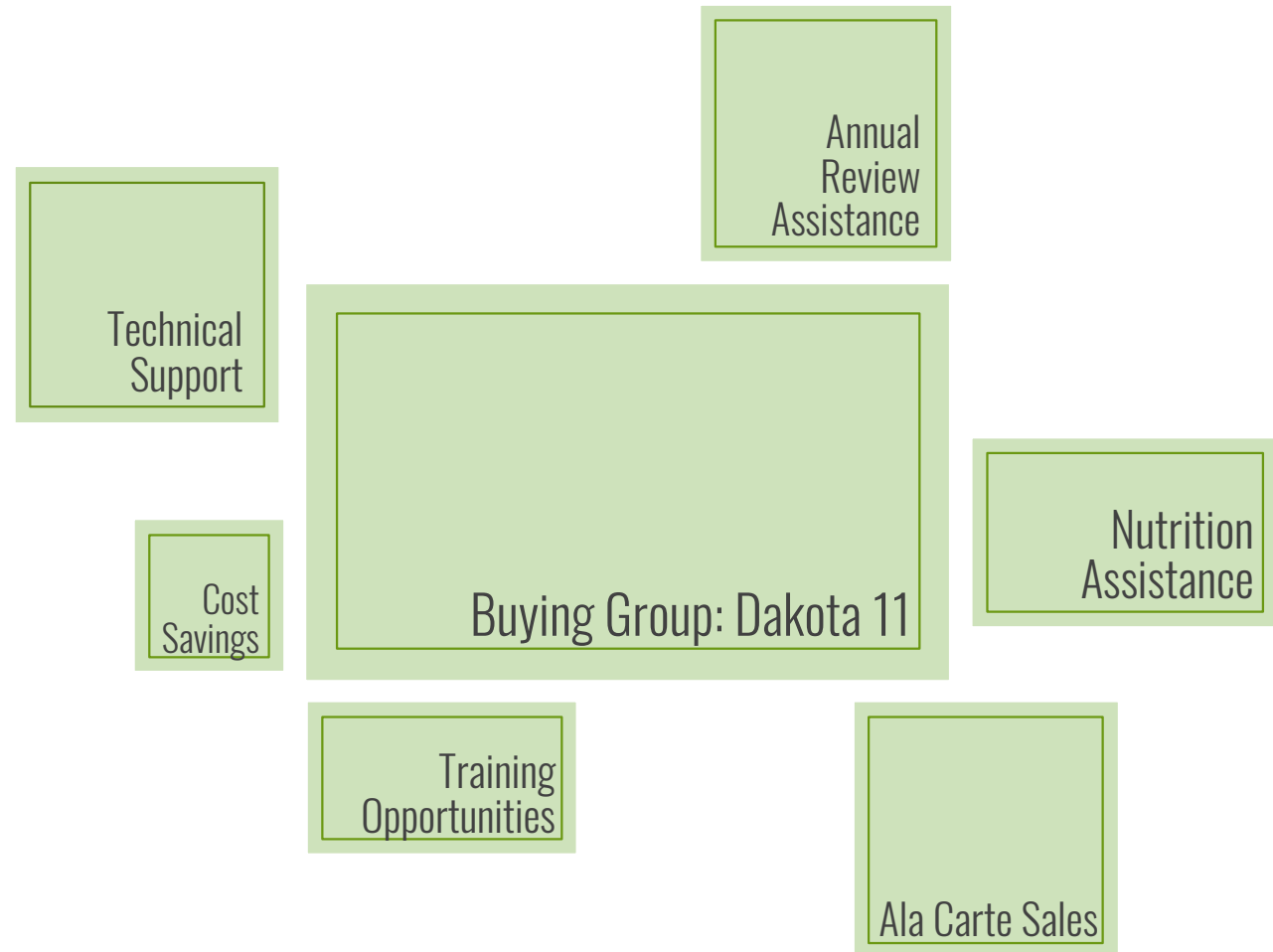
*more than just foodservice...*

- Farm to School
- Nutrition Education in the Classroom
- Dakota 10...soon to be 11



## Shared Services – WHY?

- Offer assistance in several areas of school foodservice.
- Provide valuable resources / RDN.
- Ensure cost savings in all possible areas.



## Shared Services – CONTINUED

- Began as a grant-funded program.
- Starting 2023-24 school year, program is no longer grant funded; grown into a self-sustainable shared services co-op.
- Brandon Valley acts as consultant and procurement coordinator among the involved school districts.
- Assist in any/all areas, as needed.

Arlington (295)	Chester (319)	Colman Egan (295)
Deuel (523)	Deubrook (385)	Howard (357)
Lake Preston (180)	Montrose (250)	Oldham-Ramona- Rutland (325)
Platte Geddes (510)	Sioux Valley (742)	

*Total Enrollment among all 11 schools: 4,181*

## CONTACT INFORMATION



**Andrea Kruse, MS, RDN, LN**

Child Nutrition Director, Brandon Valley School District

[Andrea.Kruse@k12.sd.us](mailto:Andrea.Kruse@k12.sd.us)

(605)582-3926



**Gay Anderson, SNS**

Child Nutrition Coordinator, Sioux Falls School District

[Gay.Anderson@k12.sd.us](mailto:Gay.Anderson@k12.sd.us)

(605)367-7962



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# Resources

[Tips for launching a Shared Services Model in School Nutrition](#)

[The Dakota 10 Story: Shared Services Model with Food and Nutrition in South Dakota](#)

[Center for Best Practices Rural Communities Webpage](#)



## Texas Rural School District Cohort

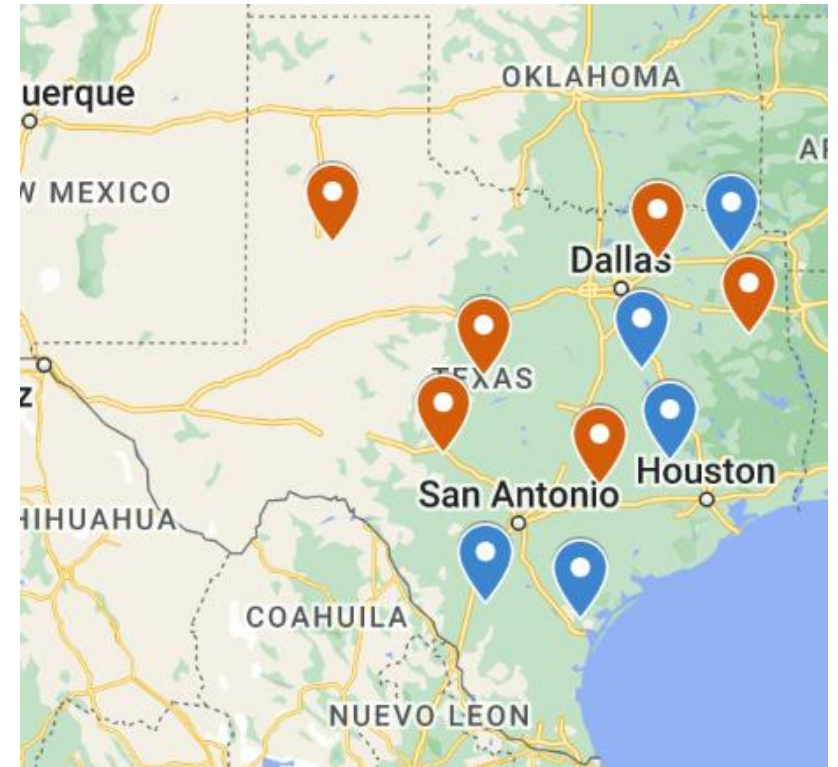
Mia Medina, Sr. Program Manager

Silke West, Food Service Director at  
Sinton ISD



## Texas Rural School District Cohort

- Launched in 2020 in partnership with the Texas Rural Education Association, providing a unique funding opportunity for rural school districts
- Our pilot cohort provided five districts located in different parts of the state \$30,000 each to use in a flexible manner as long as they were increasing access to food and it was meeting a community need
- Cohort members met quarterly to network, share any successes or challenges they were experiencing as it related to rural childhood hunger and the group collaborated on ways to overcome these challenges



## Supporting Innovation and Positive Community Outcomes

- Cohort members utilized funding in various ways that met community needs both in the short and long term.
- Impact isn't just quantitative, It's qualitative too!
  - Increases in meal participation
  - Feedback from students and families about the increased quality of school meals
  - Feelings of belonging and solidarity from networking and learning calls.
  - Utilizing calls to learn about new ways to offer programming and workshop ideas among peers.

*“We bought insulated hot and cold bags because we were doing Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC) at the elementary and junior high school. This was our first time doing this program and we are still operating BIC for all schools except high schools. It’s going really well! We’ve seen a huge increase in participation – about 90% of students are participating in breakfast.” – Marcena Martinez from Cotulla ISD, 2021*



## Continued Collaboration with Cohort Members



- Launching alumni calls so folks can continue to collaborate and increase their individual networks.
- Continuing to collect best practices and help us think about how we could better serve rural communities.
- Advocacy related opportunities on the state and federal level



# Sinton ISD

Food Service Program



# No Kid Hungry Grant Partnership

**Invitation**

**Identify  
Need**

**Identify  
Stakeholders**

**Flexibility in  
implementation**



**Communication**

**Grant Application: User friendly**

**Grant Reporting: User friendly**

# Our Lens: Food Insecurity

## Food Insecurity

“A limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways”



## Why Is a Food Insecure Population a Concern?

### •Food Insecurity is a **Public Health Issue**

- Food insecurity is associated with: malnutrition, diabetes, obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, mental health issues
- Among children, there are adverse impacts on educational outcomes, intellectual development, and childhood development

### •Food Insecurity is a **Societal Issue**

- Can impact economic productivity of a community
- Food insecurity  poor educational outcomes  limited





## A Small Town in Texas: Sinton



# Community Engagement

- Students in school
- Student school holidays
- Sinton For Youth
- A&H Show
- Health Fair
- Spaghetti Supper
- Homecoming Parade



- Partnership with County Emergency Management District



## Grant Celebrations

- Fresh fruits & vegetables
- School Holiday nutrition snack bags
- Emergency meal services



## Grant Celebrations

# FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES





## Grant Celebrations

# HOLIDAY SNACK BAGS



## Grant Celebrations

# WINTER STORM URI

- Hot meals for the community during Winter Storm Uri
- Over 1200 meals
- 60 senior citizens without heat, electricity and access to food





**Let's hear from the panelists!**

Don't forget to submit questions into the Q&A box





# Q&A Time







THANK YOU

Jeannine Rios, PhD, MPH

Senior Program Manager

[jrios@strength.org](mailto:jrios@strength.org)