

# Welcome!

We'll get started soon. While we wait for other attendees to join, please answer this question in the chat box:

**What state are you planning to serve Rural Non-Congregate Summer Meals in?**



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## How Community-Based Organizations Are Expanding Access to Summer Meals through Non-Congregate Feeding

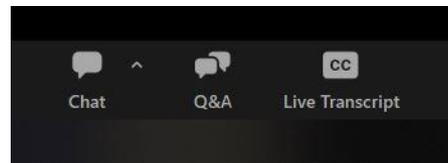
Tuesday March 26, 2024





## Things to Know as We Begin

- The slide deck will be shared via email after the webinar along with the recording.
- Closed captioning is available.
- 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.





# Agenda

## Welcome & Introductions

## Overview of Rural Non-Congregate

- Marissa Spady MS, RD - Senior Manager, State Campaigns, No Kid Hungry campaign, Share Our Strength

## Making it Happen: Rural Non-Congregate Meal Programs

- Shannon Amos, CCNP, CMP, MS, Vice President, Agency Programs, Children's Hunger Alliance, Ohio
- Constance Moore, Food Compliance Officer, YMCA of Memphis & the Mid-South, Tennessee
- Jamie Breidenbach, Program Manager, Missoula Food Bank & Community Center, Missoula, Montana

## Moderated Q&A

## Resources





## Overview of Rural Non-Congregate Summer Meals in 2023



# Background

Advocates across the country have been pushing for greater flexibility in summer meals to meet the need.



2009

2009- 2013

## Demonstrations approved by Congress

Agricultural Appropriations Act is passed and includes summer demonstration projects, including non-congregate feeding

2020

2021

2022

2023

## Pandemic Waivers

Schools and nonprofits offered non-congregate meals through summer 2020, 2021, and 2022.

## Launch of Rural Non-Congregate

# Summer Meals National Data

## 2020 & 2021:

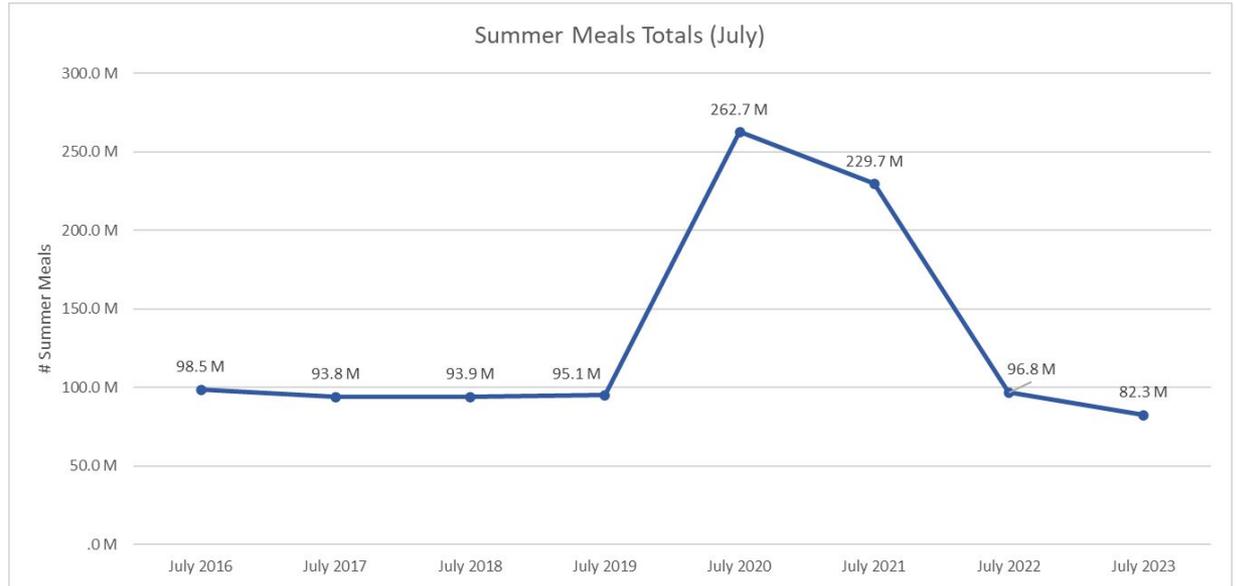
A significant spike in meals served due to pandemic-related flexibilities

## 2022:

Return to pre-pandemic participation levels

## 2023:

National participation is at its lowest point in over 10 years



While national 2023 data shows a decline in meals served, we know 2023 rural non-congregate service varied from state to state. No Kid Hungry has requested more detailed data to understand where increases and decreases occurred at the state level.

# USDA Guidance

December 2022: [Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023](#) authorized permanent option for non-congregate summer meals in rural areas without congregate service.

Winter/Spring 2023: USDA issued temporary guidance based on past pilots to guide summer 2023 implementation in states that opted in.

December 2023: USDA issued its [Interim Final Rule](#) (IFR): Establishing the Summer EBT Program and Rural Non-Congregate Option in the Summer Meal Programs.

Took immediate effect to guide implementation in Summer 2024

Open for [public comment](#) until April 29, 2024 to inform a future final rule

This [resource](#) details what's in the IFR. Just want highlights? Our related resource, [Interim Final Rule on Non-Congregate Summer Meals: Top Takeaways for Operators](#), is a 2-page summary of key points with a focus on differences from 2023 guidance.

# SERVICE MODELS

## Distribution

- **Grab N' Go –**
  - walk-up
  - curbside
  - hybrid
- **Mobile meals**
- **Home-delivery**

<b>Meal Distribution Rationale</b>	<b># of Grantees</b>	<b>% of Grantees</b>
Current USDA/state guidance	69	66%
Distance between families/sites	68	65%
Family access to transportation	64	62%
Staff capacity	60	58%
Funding available	45	43%
Family preferences	34	33%
Equipment	31	30%
Population groups	26	25%
Partnerships	26	25%
Family safety	20	19%
Staff safety	16	15%
Procurement	10	10%
Other	2	2%

Bontrager, A., & Dunphey, K. (2023). "2023 Summer Non-Congregate Grants Analysis." Internal Report. November 27, 2023.

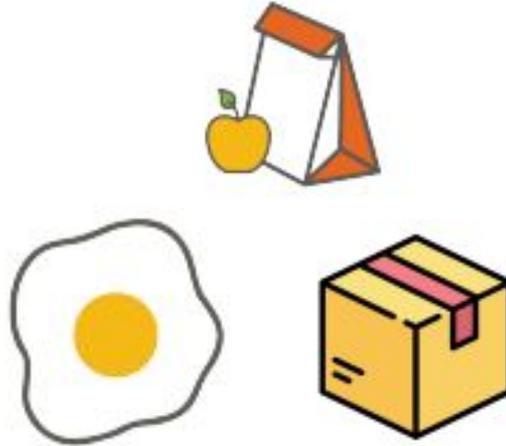
# MEALS + MENUS

## Packaged

- Bundled
- Bulk
- Unitized

## Meal Type

- Hot
- Refrigerated
- Frozen
- Shelf Stable



# OPERATIONS + LOGISTICS



## Staffing:

- Site-staff
- Drivers
- Part-time support
- Volunteers
- Partner Organizations



## Transportation:

- Retrofitted vans + food trucks
- School buses/vehicles
- Reimbursements
- Rentals



# Summer Planning with the Caregiver Insights in Mind

- Participants celebrated receiving multiple meals
  - “I’m glad that we didn’t have to go eat at the locations because being in the summer, not everyone is always hungry at the same time. Not everybody always wants to eat the same things. So, sometimes they have the little cheeseburger sliders. Well, this one next to me doesn’t eat those. She loves the grilled cheese sandwiches. And the one next to her loves the sliders, so she will probably eat all the grilled cheese sandwiches and she will eat all the sliders. It’s kinda nice when we can take them home because then we can use them as we need them. And everybody gets to eat what they like whereas if we were at the location one of them would probably be like, ‘You know what, this isn’t my favorite, so I’m not going to eat that today.’ So, I actually love that we can pick it up and take it home and eat it as we need it.”
- Participants preferred a delivery model
  - “Delivery would be helpful....That would be immensely helpful. Saving money on gas driving out here. I live on the far side...so it’s about a twenty-five minute drive each way. And then not having to rely on my little sister to help get my daughter ready.”

# Caregiver Insights



- We can continue to improve how we communicate with families about non-congregate meals

“The food is good and it’s free. I’m not sure they all know about it. I don’t know that it’s being widely used....I expected it to be harder and that they would have to check my name off or do a million other things but they gave me food. They wanted to see if I really had kids, but that’s ok because they were in my car....They are so nice and I just drove through and showed I had kids and they don’t push any buttons. They don’t make you feel embarrassed.”



**Shannon Amos, CCNP, CMP, MS**  
Vice President, Agency Programs,  
Children's Hunger Alliance, Ohio



# Children's Hunger Alliance

- Statewide organization serving Ohio
- USDA Sponsor to over 900 unique sites
  - CACFP for in-home childcare, childcare centers, afterschool programs & summer sites
- Weekend Meal/ Backpack Program
- Nutrition Education in early care & school-age settings (afterschool & summer)
- Work with schools to increase breakfast participation
- Support other summer sponsors (SFSP and SSO) to increase sites/ kids served



# 2023 Summer Sponsorship

## Full Sponsorship

- 128 unaffiliated sites in 21 counties
- 116,847 meals served
- Cold & shelf-stable meals offered

## Non-Congregate

- 14 sites (all rural library locations)
- 26,080 breakfast/lunch meals served
- Grab-and-go, multi-day/meal pack– various # days based on location operations
- Mix of congregate/non-congregate at some locations
- All shelf-stable meals



# Non-Congregate Highlights



## Multiple Vendors/Delivery

- One vendor for state shelf-stable meals provides meals to regional location vendors
- Delivery flexibility & frequency
- Capacity for small sites

## “Filling the Gaps”

- Statewide sponsor
- Identifying other school & non-community sponsors
- Seek out those that may not have another option



**Constance Moore, MBA, MA, CCNP,**  
Senior Food Compliance Officer,  
Nutrition Services, YMCA of Memphis  
& the Mid-South, Tennessee



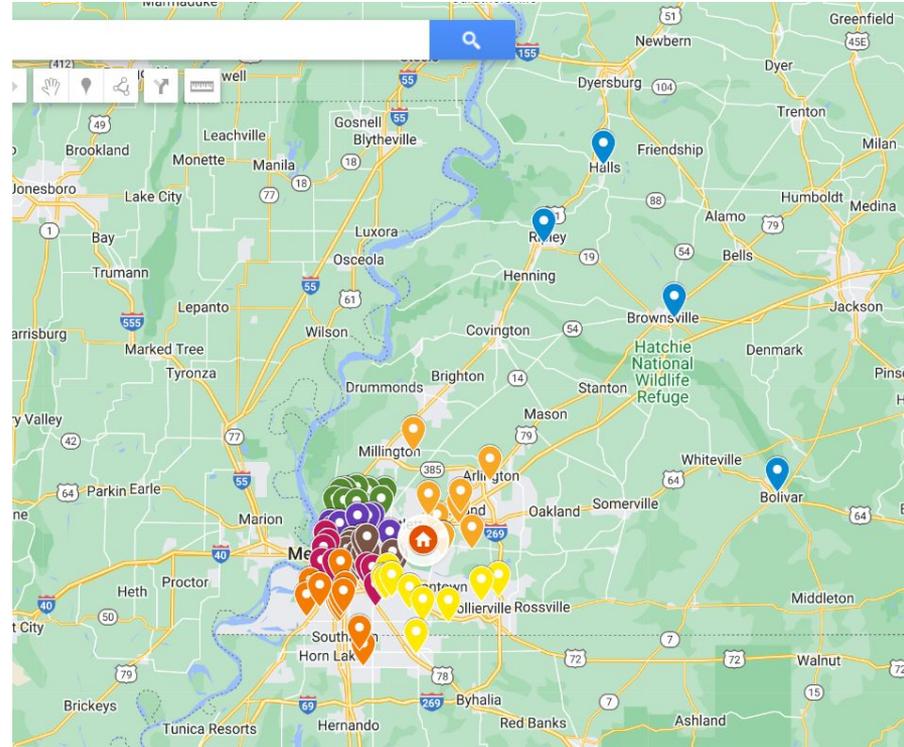
# YMCA OF MEMPHIS AND THE MIDSOUTH

- Same Day Meals and Multi-Packs
- All meals are cold prep
- Breakfast and Lunch (Snack upon request)
  - 111,767 Breakfast Daily
  - 168,315 Lunch Daily
  - 2,558 Snack Daily
  - 39,634 Breakfast and Lunch respectively in Bulk meal bags
- From end of school year to beginning of next school year
  - May 22 - August 5, 2023
  - 52 Days of Daily Meals – Monday - Friday
  - 8 Days of Saturday Meals – Bulk – 7-days of meals in one bag



# TIMELINESS IN RURAL AREAS

- Served Bulk Meal Bags in Rural Areas
  - Served 4 Sites each Saturday in 3 different counties
- Served on Saturdays during SFSP
  - 8 Saturdays from June 17 - August 5, 2023
- Served at areas that were high traffic during the week
  - Board of Education
  - Criminal Justice Complex
  - Elementary School
  - General Hospital
- Advertised in these areas with yard signs and billboards
  - Advertisement stated “Free Meals Served on Saturday”



## SFSP DATA

- 2022 was served in Memphis Shelby County; while 2023 was served in rural counties outside of Shelby
- Awaiting approval during both summers delayed how many Saturdays we could serve so we were only able to serve and claim for 6 Saturdays each summer
- Our goal for 2024 is to increase our presence in rural counties across West TN

BULK SITES	Summer 2022	Summer 2023	Summer 2024 **GOALS**
Number of Sites	6 – Metro Sites	4 – Rural Sites	~ 8 to 10
Total Number of Meals	64,715	39,634	70,000+
7 meals per bag	9,245 bags / kids served	5,662 bags / kids served	10,000+
Number of Days Served	6 Days of Saturday Service	6 Days of Saturday Service	Multiple days per week as opposed to one day (Saturday)

# REACHING RURAL AREAS

- Scout the area
  - Use the USDA Rural Designation Map
  - Ask friends / family / coworkers / neighbors / grocery store clerks
  - Start looking now
- Find Areas of High Traffic
  - Places where parents / guardians frequent
  - Where parents / guardians work
- Find Areas Where Children Gather
  - Trailer Park
  - Neighborhood Park
  - Church



# WHAT WE'RE DOING DIFFERENTLY

- Days of Service
  - Rural areas don't shop on weekends like Urban areas
- Common Areas Where People Gather During the Week
  - Places where parents / guardians frequent
  - Where parents / guardians work
- Seek Community Events and Partner with Them
  - Church Vacation Bible School
  - Neighborhood Civic Meeting
  - Water Park Visit
- Ask Local Shops / Stores if we can use their parking lot once a week
  - Local Grocery Store
  - Neighborhood Shopping Center





**Jamie Breidenbach**  
Program Manager, Missoula  
Food Bank & Community  
Center, Missoula, Montana





# Missoula Food Bank & Community Center



missoula food bank  
& community center

Mission: We lead the movement to end hunger, through advocacy, volunteerism and healthy food for all. We nourish community.

We envision a community that embraces food justice where no one feels shame or experiences stigma when asking for help.



# Missoula Food Bank & Community Center

Missoula, MT



**Store Pantry** (serve 1 in 5 in our community)

**Satellite Pantries** (4 locations, 5 addition from mobile meal bus)

**Application Assistance** (SNAP, Medicaid, TANF, LIHEAP, School F/R applications)

**Resource Referral**

**Child Nutrition Programs**

CACFP (8 partners)

SFSP (16 sites)

EmPower Pack (Backpack) Program (~1,300 weekly)

School Day Snacks (600+ kids served weekly, at 17 schools)

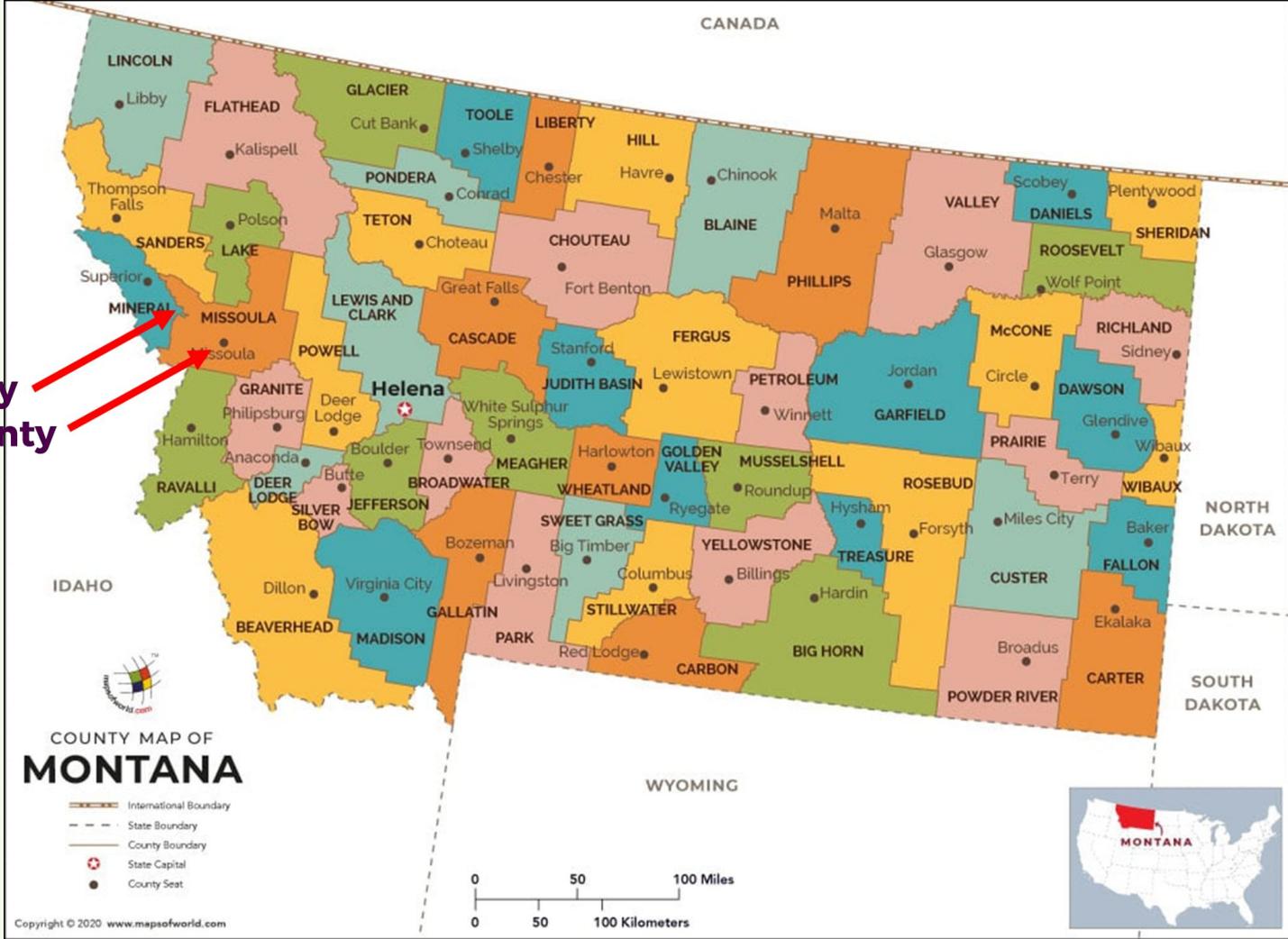
**Senior Nutrition Programs**

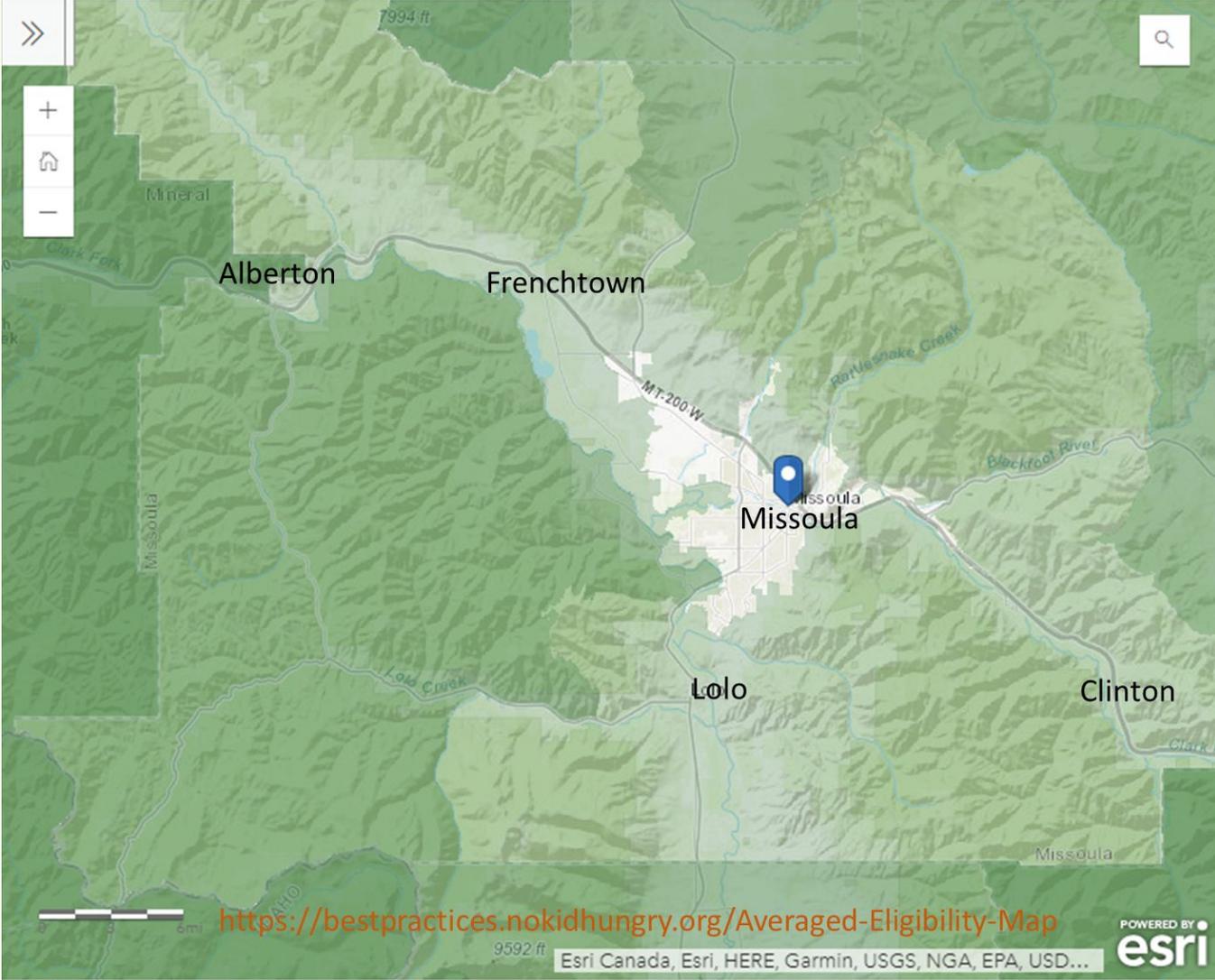
CSFP (ROOTS) (470 seniors)

Fresh Food Box (102 households)

**Volunteers** (ave. ~650 people, ~3500 hours per month)

**Mineral = Rural County**  
**Missoula = Urban County**





<https://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/Averaged-Eligibility-Map>

Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA, EPA, USD...



# Non-Congregate Meals

- **Grab-&-go Meals**, Monday to Friday
  - Friday pick-up includes meals for Saturday and Sunday
  - **Breakfast & lunch** (*more food for kids!*)
- Meals may be picked up by the student, their parent, or guardian (*yes!!*)
- **Cold** Prep, cold serve meals
  - **EmPower Packs** for weekends (shelf stable)
- **2023**: ~65,000 meals served, ½ lunches
  - Non-congregate sites: ~16,000



# Providing More Food!

		Congregate	Non-Congregate			
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
		Total	Total	Total	Total	Total
Alberton	Snack	241	0	0	0	0
	Breakfast	0	960	1122	1110	1341
	Lunch	926	1185	1404	1280	1811
Frenchtown	Snack	227	0	0	785	1348
	Breakfast	0	1038	853	0	0
	Lunch	197	1058	897	865	1532
Lolo	Breakfast	0	4458	2972	1324	4341
	Lunch	2031	5219	4204	4838	4830



# Menus



- Pair fresh produce with shelf stable fruit/veg with to meet requirement: applesauce, fruit pouch, fruit cup, veg/fruit juice
- All meals served with 1% white milk
- Grains are whole

# Lunch Menus

	<u>Entrée</u>	<u>Fresh fruit/veg</u>	<u>extra protein</u>	<u>Extra fruit/veg</u>	<u>Extra Item(s)</u>	Milk
<u>Monday</u>	uncrustable PB&J sandwich	carrots	hummus	applesauce	granola bar & ranch dressing	milk
<u>Tuesday</u>	turkey and cheese sandwich w/ mayo & must	salsa		fruit cup	WG tortilla chips	milk
<u>Wednesday</u>	ham and cheese sandwich w/ mayo & must	sweet mini peppers		squeezer	cheez-its	milk
<u>Thursday</u>	peanut butter and jelly sandwich	strawberries	PB & yogurt dip	fruit cup	WG wheat thins	milk
<u>Friday</u>	turkey and cheese sandwich w/ mayo & must	cocktail cucumber		veggie juice	WG goldfish	milk

# Breakfast Menus

	<u>Whole Grain</u>	<u>Fresh fruit/veg</u>	<u>Protein/other</u>	<u>1% white milk</u>
<u>Monday</u>	granola	apple	yogurt	milk
<u>Tuesday</u>	1/2 bagel	banana	peanut butter cup	milk
<u>Wednesday</u>	Cheerios	strawberries & applesauce	PB & yogurt dip	milk
<u>Thursday</u>	Frosted Mini Wheats	Frozen blueberries & juice	Hard boiled egg	milk
<u>Friday</u>	1/2 bagel	clementine & fruit cup	cream cheese	milk

# Supper Menus

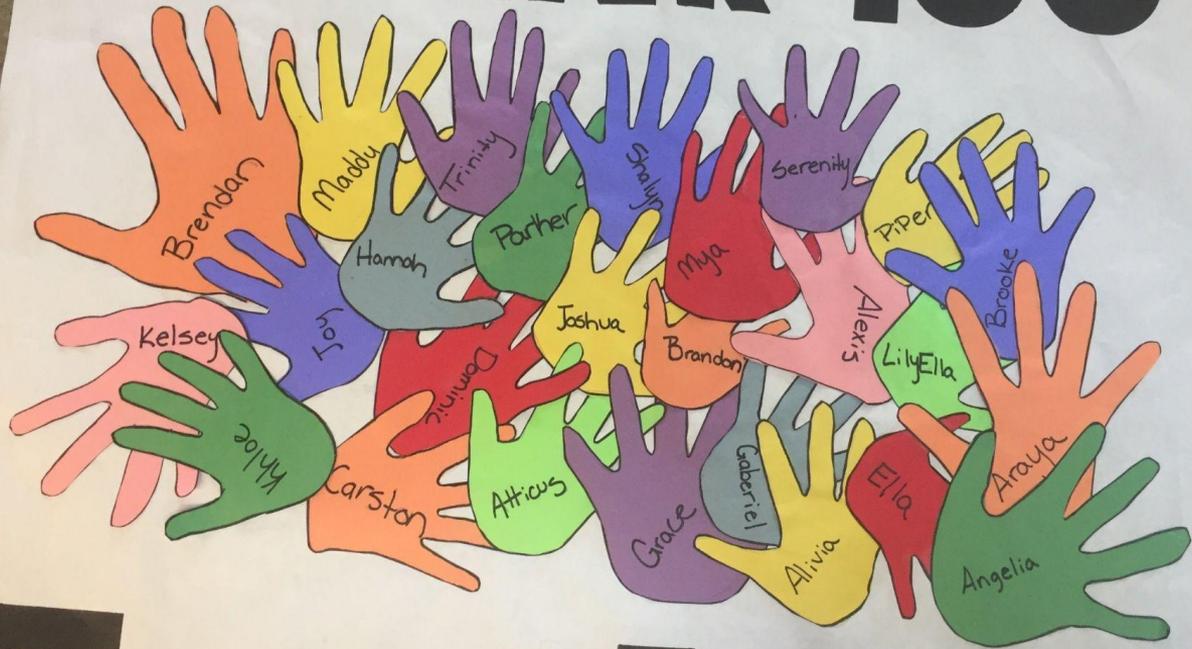
	<u>Entrée</u>	<u>Fresh fruit/veg</u>	<u>Extra fruit/veg</u>	<u>Extra Item</u>	<u>1% white Milk</u>
<u>Monday</u>	chicken and cheese wrap	Salsa	veggie juice	chips	milk
<u>Tuesday</u>	meatball sandwich	grapes	fruit cup	cheeze-its	milk
<u>Wednesday</u>					
<u>Thursday</u>	pepperoni pizza	sugar snap peas	fruit squeezer	granola bar	milk
<u>Friday</u>					

# Menu



- Find additional funding to provide all **adults with a meal**
- **Leftovers:** Serve following day, disassemble and reuse what we can donate to the Poverello (homeless shelter) or distribute in MFB&CC party what we cannot reuse in kids meals.

# THANK YOU



# FOOD BANK!



# Q&A

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## Resources



# Non-Congregate Resources from No Kid Hungry

## [Successful Non-Congregate Meal Service Models For Rural Areas: Implementation Guide](#)

## [Grab & Go Success Stories - Missoula Food Bank & Community Center, Montana](#)

## [Grab & Go Success Stories - Lowcountry Food Bank, South Carolina](#)



### Successful Non-Congregate Meal Service Models for Rural Areas: Implementation Guide

In approved states beginning summer 2023, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and NSLP Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sponsors can operate non-congregate programs in rural communities without access to a congregate meal site. Find more information in [USDA's Implementation Guidance for Summer 2023 Non-Congregate Meal Service in Rural Areas](#).

This resource outlines effective models for non-congregate meal service. Use this guide to find strategies and tactics to execute a successful non-congregate summer meals program in your rural community.

*Please reach out to your state agency to confirm the availability of non-congregate meal service and allowable models. Note: States are not required to make the non-congregate option available this summer. State agencies had to submit a plan to USDA for approval by April 1, 2023 to allow non-congregate meal service in summer 2023.*

#### Sections of this Implementation Guide

- [Definitions](#)
- [Considerations for Non-Congregate Meal Service](#)
- [Meal Distribution Models](#)
  - [Drive Thru or Curbside Pick-Up](#)
  - [Walk-Up Distribution](#)
  - [Mobile Route Distribution](#)
  - [Direct Home Delivery](#)
- [Meal Distribution Logistics](#)
- [Communication](#)
- [Partnerships and Additional Services](#)

# Resources from No Kid Hungry

## Summer Meals Outreach Toolkit

- Sample social media posts
- Website blurbs
- Customizable flyers
- Template letters to caregivers
- Template FAQs

*All in English and Spanish!*



# No Kid Hungry Texting Line and Free Meal Finder Map

Families can text “FOOD” or “COMIDA” to  
304-304

to find the nearest summer meals site!

Or they can visit [NoKidHungry.org/Help](https://NoKidHungry.org/Help)  
or [NoKidHungry.org/Ayuda](https://NoKidHungry.org/Ayuda) for our interactive  
Free Meal Finder map of summer meals sites.

Families can also visit  
[NoKidHungry.org/WhatsApp](https://NoKidHungry.org/WhatsApp) to access the meal  
finder via WhatsApp.





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Visit our website:

[www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org](http://www.bestpractices.nokidhungry.org)

**Need Assistance?** Reach out through our [inquiry form](#) for resources and potential grant funding





## Your Feedback is Appreciated!

At the conclusion of this webinar, a 5-question survey will open in your browser window.

Please take a moment to complete it.





# Thank You for Attending!

Marissa Spady MS, RD

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State Campaigns, No Kid Hungry

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