

Training Guide - Rural Summer Meal Coverage Tool

Introduction

The [Rural Summer Meal Coverage Tool](#) helps users identify opportunities to expand rural non-congregate summer meal service by discovering areas where this service is possible but not currently offered and areas where there may be kids without nearby access to summer meal sites.

The Rural Coverage Map displays existing summer meal sites and schools in rural and/or area-eligible locations. The map allows users to filter sites and schools to better understand where rural non-congregate summer meal service might be needed but isn't currently provided.

The No Kid Hungry Priority Map shows how No Kid Hungry priorities align with areas of opportunity. Users can overlay child hunger and poverty assessments or free/reduced enrollment levels with existing summer meal sites and school locations.

Area Eligibility

This tool includes an area eligible overlay that uses the [NKH Averaged Eligibility Map](#) as the source for that data. This overlay includes both area eligible and averaged eligible areas using census data to determine eligibility.

USDA also allows the use of school data to establish area eligibility. Schools with at least 50 percent of enrolled children eligible for free or reduced price school meals or schools participating in CEP with an ISP of at least 31.25 may be eligible. Schools eligible based on enrollment data and not Census Block Group (CBG) data will not appear in the area eligible shaded regions of this map.

For more information on paths to area eligibility, review our [Navigating Area Eligibility in Summer and Afterschool Meals](#) resource.

How to Use

Getting Started

- Use the tabs located at the top of the dashboard to navigate to each map:.



- Choose a state from the dropdown menu to view. Use your cursor to pan and zoom across the state.
- To search for a specific city or county, click the magnifying glass icon in the upper-left corner of the map.
- If the map doesn't automatically re-center when you select a new state, click the house icon in the map's upper left corner to zoom home.

Rural Coverage Map

The Rural Coverage Map defaults to a state-wide view with rural areas shaded in green, summer meal sites plotted as orange dots, and schools as blue dots.

- Use the Map Overlay filter to switch between Rural, Area Eligible, or Rural and Area Eligible as a shaded green overlay.
- The County Outlines filter will show or hide county borders.
- Summer sites can be filtered on Congregate status as well as Program type (SFSP or SSO) where data is available.
- In rural areas, where population density is low, school location can serve as a proxy indicator of areas with kids. Use the Minimum Enrollment filter to exclude very small schools in states where this is applicable.

No Kid Hungry Priority Map

The No Kid Hungry Priority Map (NKH Priority Map) defaults to a state-wide view with F/R enrollment level by county and summer meal sites plotted as grey dots. Non-rural areas are whited-out (anything that is visible on this map is rural).

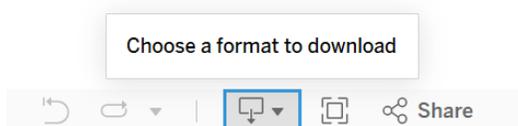
- Use the County Overlay filter to switch between F/R Enrollment Level, State Child Hunger & Poverty Assessment, and US Child Hunger & Poverty Assessment overlays.
- Toggle schools and summer sites under Show/Hide Locations to show only summer meals sites, only schools, or both.
- Use the Congregate filter to isolate non-congregate meal sites and identify areas without service.

Sharing

Communicate out your findings with partners using downloads and links. Images can be inserted into reports or emails, and links can be distributed to encourage discovery using the tool. Because the data included is publicly sourced or used with permission, there are no privacy concerns with sharing this tool.

Images

Select the download button at the bottom right corner of the dashboard to open the download menu:



Download image, PDF, or PowerPoint formats. Your selected filters will be applied to the download.

Links and Custom Links

Tableau Public allows us to customize the share link in a few different ways to guide user experience.

You can customize the landing page to any of the tabs by adding the tab name to the end of the URL:

- [Home](#)
- [RuralCoverageMap](#)
- [NoKidHungryPriorityMap](#)

You can apply a state filter in the link by adding `?p_state=XX` to the end of the URL and substituting the state abbreviation for XX. An example link where the state filter is pre-populated to NC would look like this:

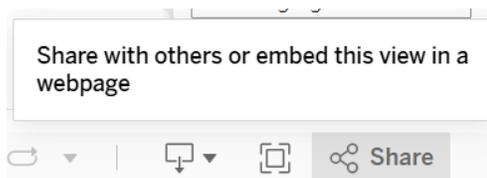
https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/no.kid.hungry.analysis/viz/RuralSummerMealCoverage/Home?p_state=NC

You can combine link customizations in one URL. Here, the link sends the user directly to the Rural Coverage Map with NC already selected:

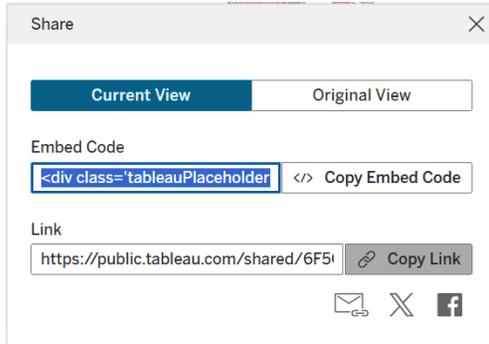
https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/no.kid.hungry.analysis/viz/RuralSummerMealCoverage/RuralCoverageMap?p_state=NC

Lastly, use the Share button to create a link that preserves all user-selected filters ([example](#)).

Find the Share button in the same menu as the Download button, at the bottom right corner of the dashboard:



Make sure Current View is selected, and click Copy Link:

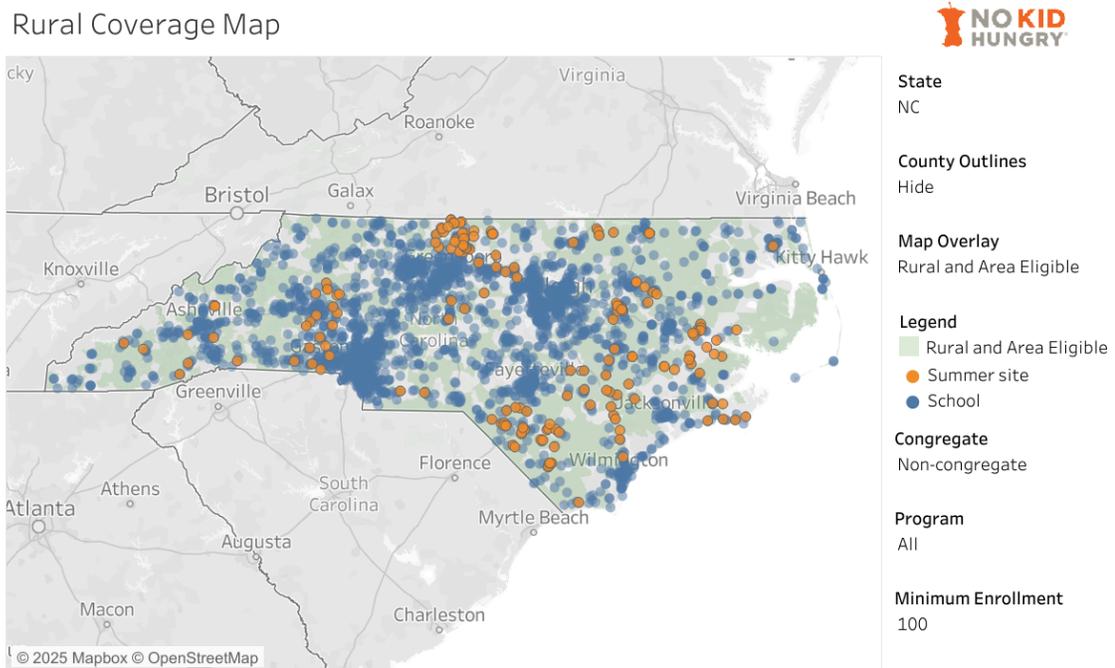


Note that the Current View share link will not include navigation tabs at the top. Share the [default view link](#) as well if you want the recipient to have the ability to explore the full dashboard.

Example Use Case

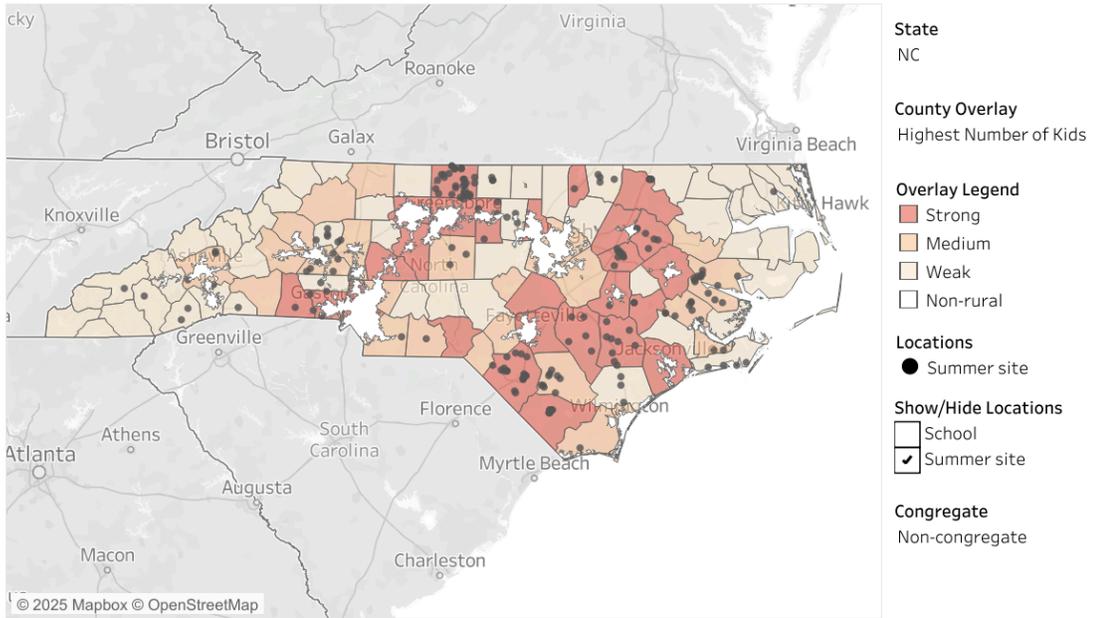
This is a step-by-step guide to using the maps to discover areas of interest for future summer meal sites. In this example, we are trying to find rural and area eligible locations in North Carolina to expand summer meal service. Get a closer look at this example use case by viewing the [walkthrough video](#).

1. Start on the Rural Coverage Map and select NC from the State menu. Since we are looking specifically at rural and area eligible locations, select Rural and Area Eligible from the Map Overlay menu. Filter out congregate meal sites by unchecking “Unknown” under the Congregate menu. Let’s also remove schools with very few kids enrolled by setting the Minimum Enrollment slider to 100. We’re now looking at a map of non-congregate summer meals sites and schools with at least 100 kids enrolled over a rural and area eligible background map.



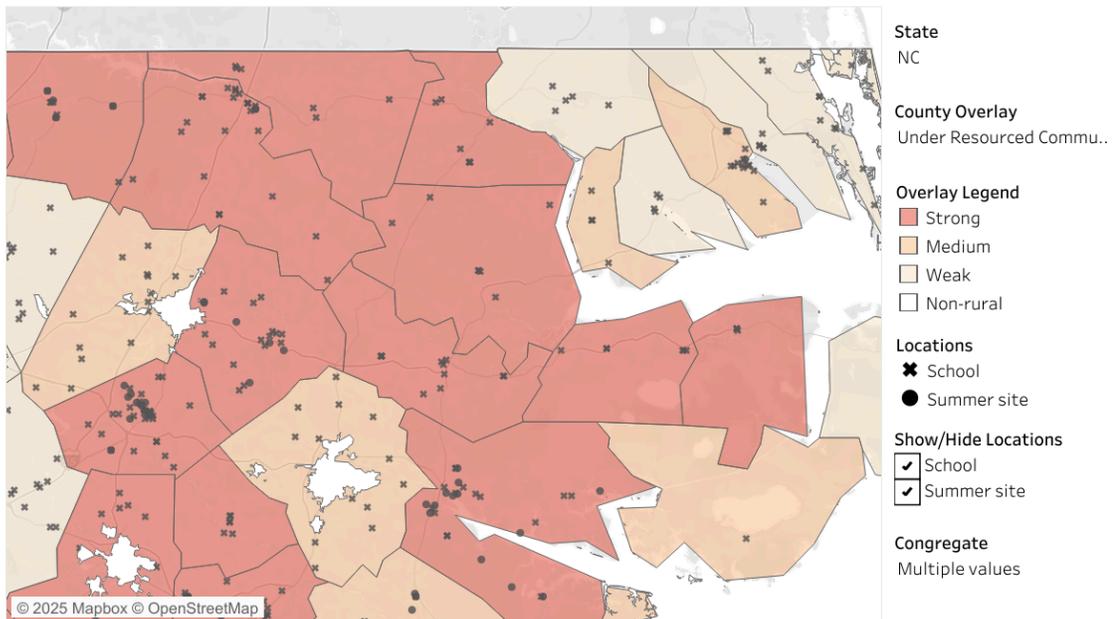
2. We can see rural and area eligible regions with kids (blue dots) and no summer sites (orange dots), but how do we know if those parts of the states align with No Kid Hungry priorities? Using the NKH Priority Map, we can identify counties with characteristics in alignment with our organizational priorities. Select the No Kid Hungry Priority Map tab at the top of the dashboard to navigate to this map. Non-rural areas are whited-out here so anything that is visible is classified as rural. Use the County Overlay menu to view Highest Number of Kids in Need, Under-Resourced Communities, and Free/Reduced Enrollment levels mapped at the county level. Let’s also exclude congregate meal sites from this map using the Congregate menu to identify counties without non-congregate service.

No Kid Hungry Priority Map



This map shows me that the eastern region of the state, excluding the coasts, strongly aligns as an under-resourced community. There aren't many non-congregate sites in the northeast corner of the state, but are there kids there? We can show schools using the Show/Hide Locations filter and zoom into that region to take a closer look. If schools do not appear on the map after clicking the School check box, review the Congregate filter and make sure N/A (School) is selected.

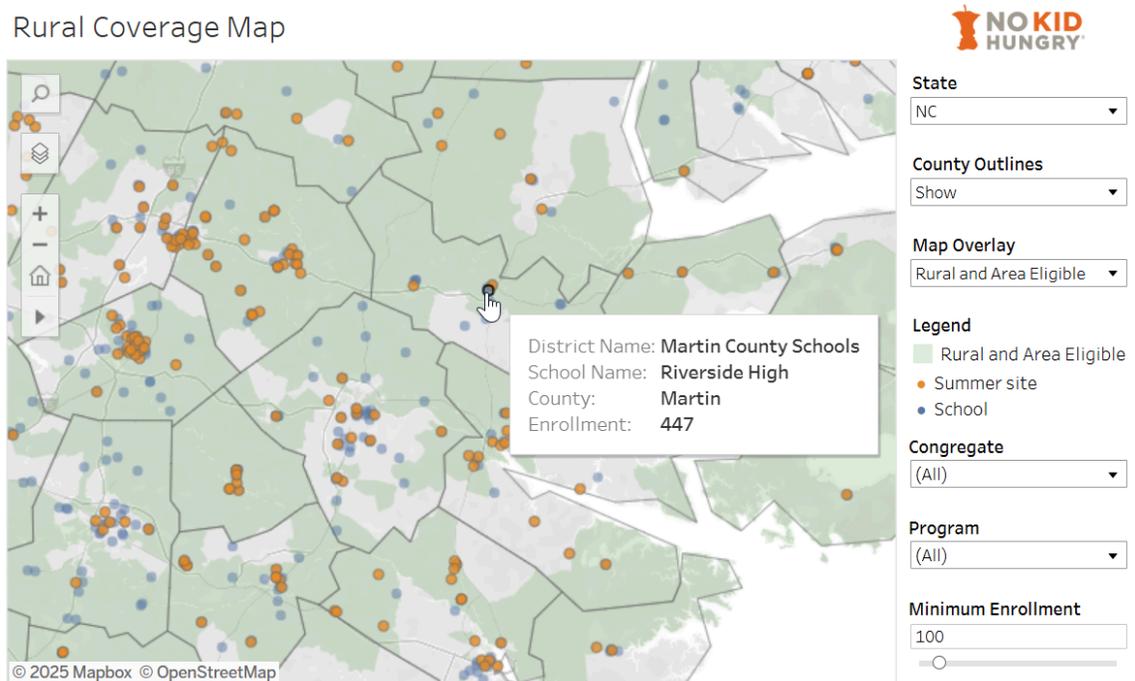
No Kid Hungry Priority Map



I can see that the collar counties around Greenville and Pitt County have kids (schools are represented by Xs) but not many non-congregate summer meal sites (represented by dots). Let's return to the Rural Coverage Map to explore this area.

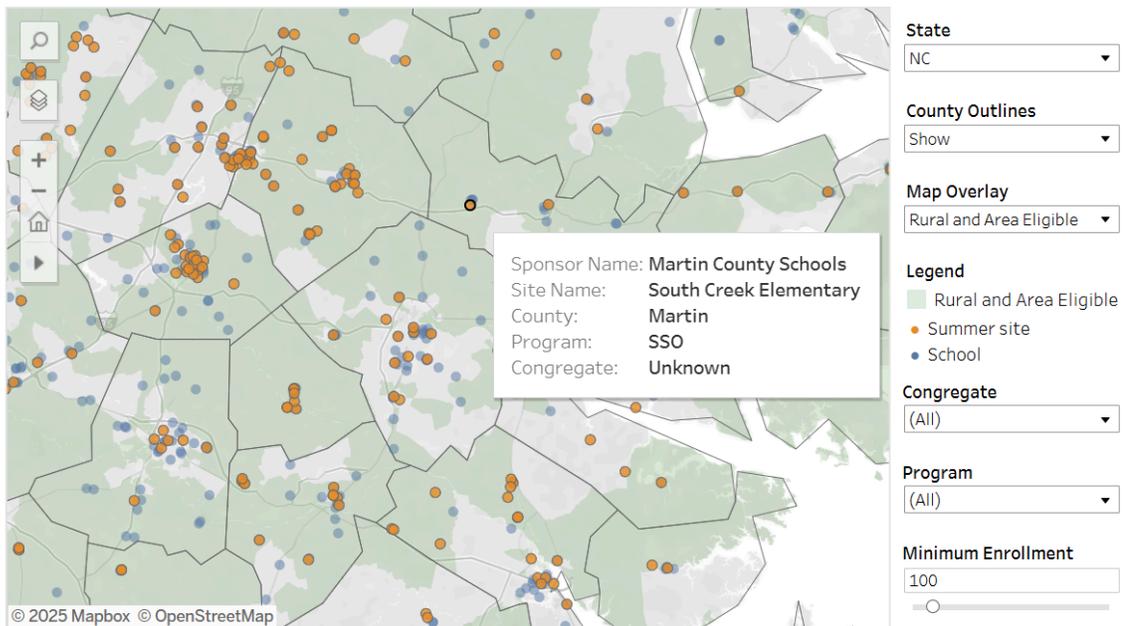
3. Since I am looking at specific counties, let's add county borders to the Rural Coverage Map using the County Outlines filter (Show). Zooming into the Greenville region, I can hover over a county to see its name and hover over schools to reveal additional detail. I can see much of Martin County is rural and area eligible, and there aren't any summer non-congregate meal sites. Hovering over a school, I view the school and district name. This can help with outreach, since the district is a potential sponsor and the school is a potential site.

Rural Coverage Map



I also want to see if there are existing congregate sponsors in the area that might be willing to expand. I can clear the Congregate filter to add all summer meal sites to the map, and I see that Martin County has two summer sites. Hovering over those points, I learn that Martin County Schools is already operating congregate meal service in the county and could be encouraged to add non-congregate sites.

Rural Coverage Map



4. I can repeat this process—identifying regions of interest, reviewing county alignment scoring, and compiling a list of potential sponsors—across the state. If at any point I want to start over, I can refresh my web browser to clear all filters and return to the Home screen.