

How Rural Communities Overcame Challenges During the COVID-19 Pandemic

September 14, 2021

Walmart  org


Save the
Children.

 **NO KID
HUNGRY**[®]



Welcome

- Slides and the recording of the webinar will be shared
- Please ensure you are on mute throughout the entirety of the webinar
- If you have a technical-related question, please use the chat function located in the toolbar at the bottom of your screen
- If you have a question for a panelist, please use the Q&A function located in the toolbar at the bottom of your screen

Speakers



Rachel Spencer
Senior Manager, Community Resilience at Walmart.org



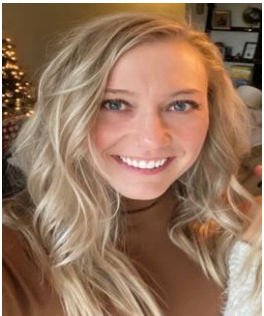
Katie Rogers
Child Nutrition Director at Jerome School District



Tamara Sandberg
Director, U.S. Food Security and Nutrition at Save the Children



Rachael Jones
Executive Director at Farm to School Park County



Annessa Bontrager
Senior Project Manager at No Kid Hungry

Opening Remarks

Rachel Spencer

Senior Manager, Community Resilience

Walmart.org





Rural Learnings Project



How We Got Here

- Examined No Kid Hungry grantees from March-July 2020 who identified serving exclusively rural communities within their applications (n=254)
- Created a survey to gather more qualitative information (n=125)
- Invited 20 survey respondents to participate in focus groups (n=16)
 - Katie and Rachael, our expert panelists, were two of those focus group participants
- The research included in this presentation was made possible through funding by the Walmart Foundation, however the findings, conclusions, and recommendations presented do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Walmart Foundation



Learnings

- **Communication**

- Challenges: running out of cell phone minutes, limited internet access, language barriers
- Solutions: utilizing different communication channels, improving data management system



Learnings

- Transportation

- Challenges: lack of safe access, lack of resources for gas, children traveling with heavy bulk foods
- Solutions: waivers!



Learnings

- Food Safety and Supply

- Challenges: keeping cold things cold; children preparing meals at home; supply chain disruptions
- Solutions: funding and technical assistance to serve pre-packaged meals; partnerships



Learnings

- Partnerships

- Restaurants, post office, fire departments, Rent-A-Center, food banks, faith-based organizations, community centers



Moving Forward

- Using learnings intentionally in:
 - Internal conversations on how to better serve rural communities
 - Strategies and decision-making related to grants
 - Adapting resources
 - Sharing research

Ask The Experts

Katie Rogers - Child Nutrition Director, Jerome School District

Rachael Jones - Executive Director, Farm to School Park County





Audience Q&A



Katie Rogers

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THANK YOU

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