

Summer Meals in Public Libraries





KENTUCKY
KIDS EAT

FEEDING
KENTUCKY

NO KID
HUNGRY
KENTUCKY

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FEEDING
KENTUCKY



State's Largest
Charitable Response to
Hunger



Network of 7 Feeding
America Food Banks &
900+ Partner Pantries
Serving All 120 Counties



Mission: Work collectively to
create a hunger-free
Kentucky



Focus on Child Hunger,
Food Sourcing for
Network, SNAP Outreach,
& Advocacy

4P's to Hunger Free

KKE's Approach To Fostering Connections Between KY Kids & Healthy Food

1

PUBLICIZE

the Problem of Child
Food Insecurity &
Hunger in KY

2

PROMOTE

Evidence-Based
Strategies that
Reduce Child Food
Insecurity & Hunger
in KY

3

PARTNER

to Support Those
Strategies in Practice
in KY

4

PUSH

Policies that Serves as
Legislative Solutions
to Child Food
Insecurity & Hunger
in KY

Kentucky Kids Eat

Child Hunger Relief Program of Feeding Kentucky

- Specialized focus on child hunger is unique to Feeding KY compared to other PSAs
- Mission-Aligned Goal: Food security for every KY child every day
- What We Do: Connect KY kids to healthy foods 365 days a year
- Program Neither Feeds Children Directly or Provides Food to Families
- How Does KKE Foster Connections? 4P's to Hunger Free Approach



Public-Private Coalition between
Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry
Campaign and Feeding Kentucky

Shared Goal of Ending Child Hunger
in Kentucky

Works toward Increased Access
to School and Community Nutrition
Programs

Addressing Summer Hunger Among
Kentucky Kids since it began in 2015

No Kid Hungry Kentucky Strategies

Supporting Schools

We work with school districts, providing training, toolkits, and strategic grant funding to launch or enhance existing school meal programs – with a focus on breakfast and summer meals.



Building Community Partnerships

We collaborate with community-based organizations and support innovative strategies to support summer meal programs and connect families to other critical federal nutrition programs like SNAP and Summer EBT



Advancing Equity

We prioritize support to marginalized communities, seek out and share successful community-based solutions, and work to address the root causes of hunger.



Advocating for Kids

We engage with elected and government officials to make sure that ending child hunger is prioritized by decision makers at all levels of government.



Hunger Threatens Children's Futures



EDUCATION

3 out of 4 public school teachers say that students regularly come to school hungry.



HEALTH

Hungry children are sick more, recover more slowly & are hospitalized more frequently.

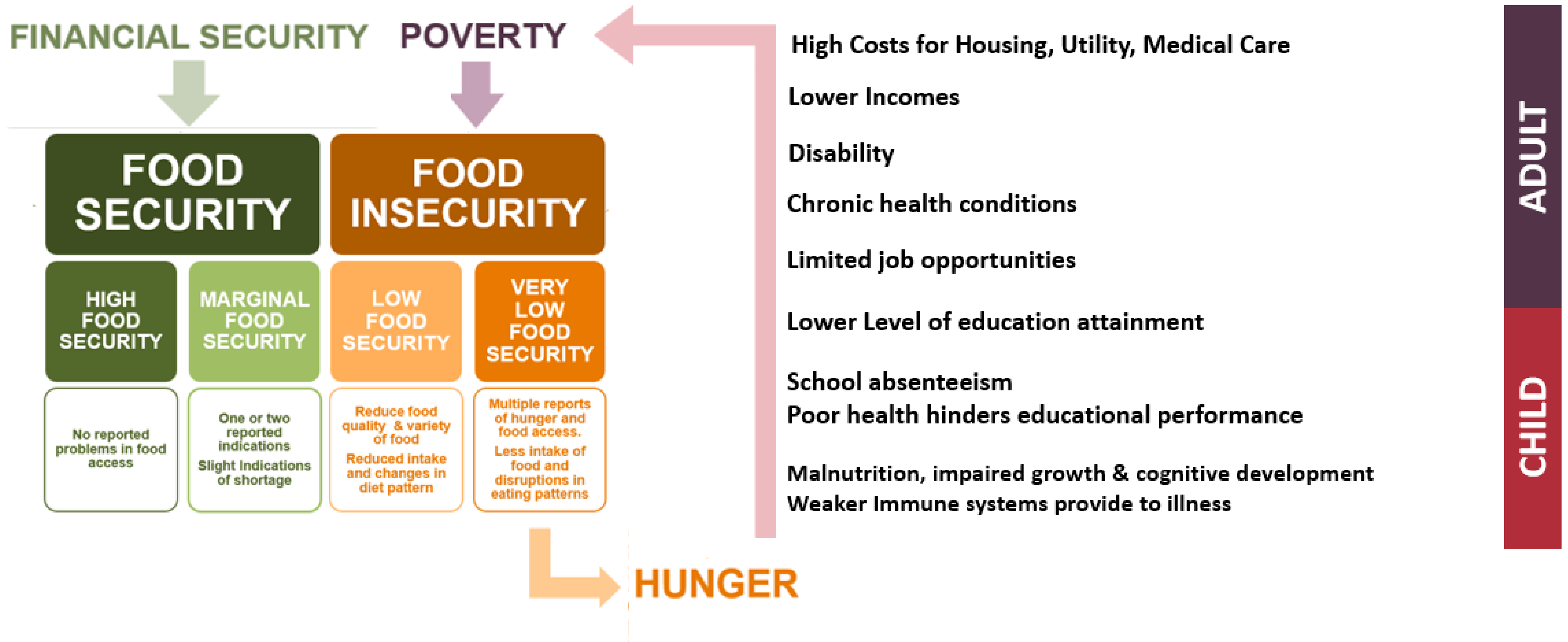


ECONOMY

Research puts hunger's cost to the U.S. economy per year at \$167.5 billion

Food Insecurity

Social & Economic Condition Connected to Hunger



1 in ___ kids in the Kentucky county where I live...

2023



lack access to enough food at times throughout the year for an active, healthy life.

During the School Year



Kids eligible for free & reduced-price school meals are ~2.7 times more likely to be food insecure than their non-eligible counterparts

2024-25 School Year

PRICE OF SCHOOL MEALS BY TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT AT KENTUCKY SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM ADOPTING & NOT ADOPTING THE COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION

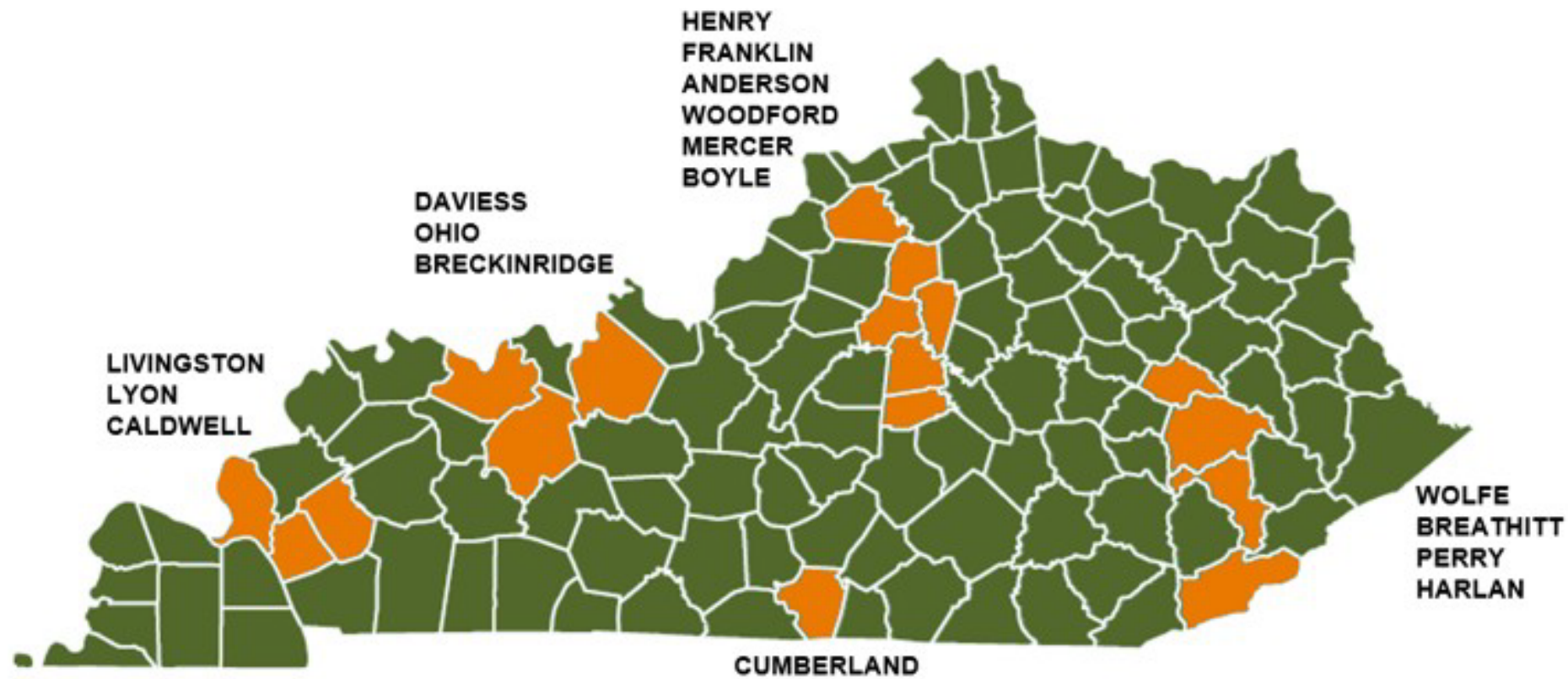
	Total Enrollment (# of Students)	Total Free Enrollment (# of Students)	Total Reduced Enrollment (# of Students)	Total Paid Enrollment (# of Students)
CEP ADOPTING SCHOOLS	597,953	597,953	0	0
NON- CEP ADOPTING SCHOOLS	74,934	20,385	3,658	50,891
CEP & NON-CEP SCHOOLS	672,887	618,338	3,658	50,981

91.9% of Kentucky Students Attending NSLP & SBP Participating Schools Receive Meals at No Charge

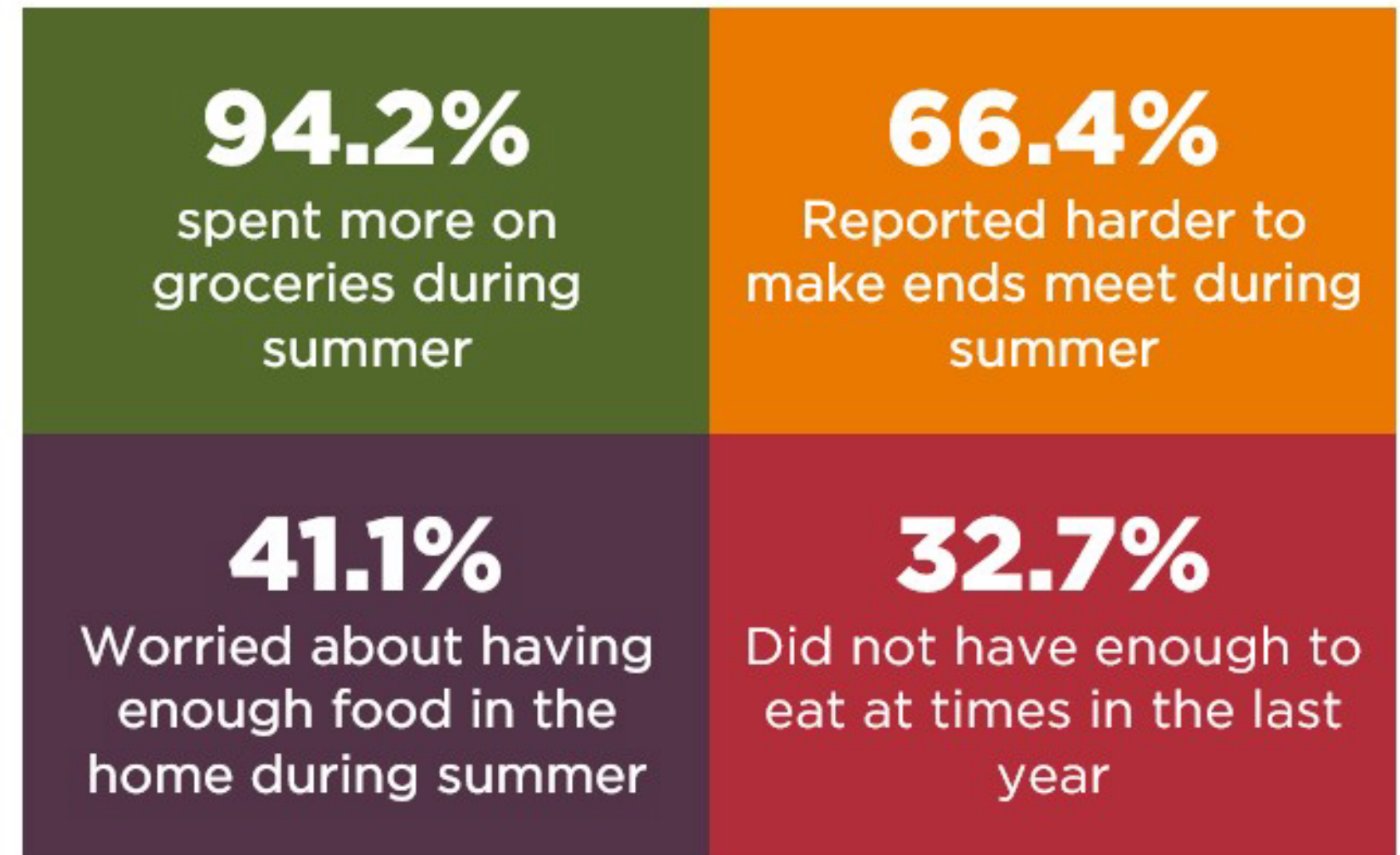
Informing Summer

Family & Caregiver Survey around USDA's Summer Nutrition Programs for Kids

- 104 families & caregivers from 17 KY counties across the state were surveyed



Map shows the counties of residence (shaded in orange) of Kentucky families and caregivers who completed our August 2024 survey about the USDA's Summer Nutrition Program for Kids .



Material based upon research completed as part of the Food Research & Action Center's Equitable Access to Child Nutrition Programs Project, funded through a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture

During Summer Break



Group Meal Service



Non-Congregate Meal Service

Estimated Kids Reached through Summer Meals			
Year	Number of FR Kids	In Non-Rural Areas	
		Estimated Kids Reached by Summer Meals	Estimated % FR Kids Reached by Summer Meals
Summer 2023	209,947	13,292	6.33%
Summer 2024	209,947	12,647	6.02%
Change	0	-645	-0.31%

Summer Meals Participation Data			
Summer	Estimated Access and Reach		
	% of Rural FR Kids with RNC Access	% of Rural FR Kids Reached with RNC Summer Meals (est.)	% of Rural FR Kids Reached with <u>Total</u> Summer Meals (est.)
2024	82.9%	20.7%	25.2%
2025	88.6%	29.5%	34.7%
Change	5.7%	8.8%	9.5%

Despite Tremendous Growth in Summer Meals, We Are Reaching Only A Portion of Kentucky Kids Who Receive Free & Reduced Priced School Meals



**SUMMER IS
THE HUNGRIEST
TIME OF YEAR**

**Green Co. Public Library
partnered with Feeding America
Kentucky's Heartland Food Bank
– closing long-standing gap in
access in the county**



**Casey Co. Public Library
partnered with Feeding America
Kentucky's Heartland Food Bank
– closing gap in access in the
county**



Casey County Public Library

Jan 14 · 🌐

Being a pickup point for SUN meals was one of the highlights of our summer! Hopefully we'll be able to do it again this year!



Spectrum News 1 Kentucky ✓

Jan 13 · ⚙️

For the first time, free summer meals were available in all 120 Kentucky counties. Nearly 11 million meals were served May–Aug. 2025. SUN Meals to Go a... See more



spectrumnews1.com

**For the first time, free summer meals reach all 120
Kentucky counties**

**Lewis Co. Public Library
partnered with UMC Food
Ministry to expand access to
summer meals**

**Expanded access among rural
kids from 0% to 85% with over
113,000 summer meals served
in Lewis County in 2025
compared to 698 in 2024.**

**Each supported with grant
funding from No Kid Hungry
Kentucky and local sponsor-site
partnerships facilitated by KDLA
and the Kentucky Kids Eat
Program**

6 Ways Libraries Could Support Summer Meals in KY

Be a
Sponsor

Be a Site

Volunteer
Time

Provide
Enrichment

Outreach &
Support
Families

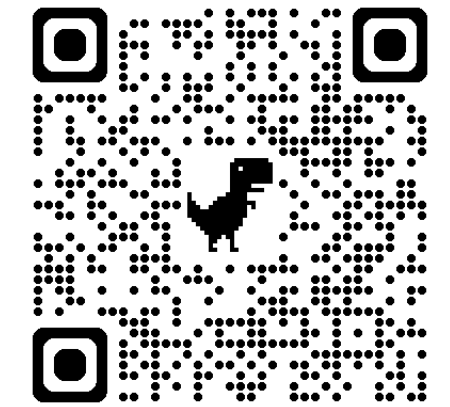
5 Ways: Be a Sponsor

- Libraries as sponsors could prioritize closing gaps in access
 - ❖ RNC in eligible rural areas not covered by congregate sites
 - ❖ Expand in-county availability of summer meals by closing gaps left by other sponsors.
 - Several counties have only 4 weeks of availability to summer meals
- Example: Lawrence Co. Public Library

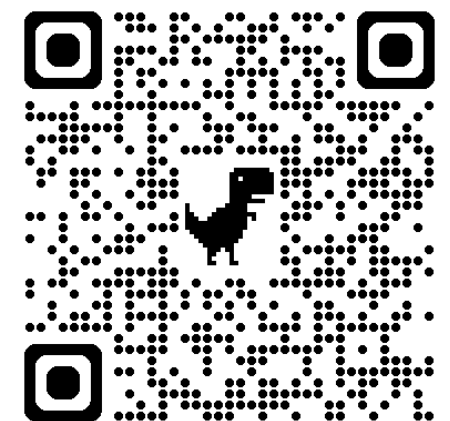
5 Ways: Be a Site

- Libraries as sites can provide access points for kids to receive summer meals – both SUN Meals (congregate) and SUN Meals to Go (non-congregate)
- Examples:
 - ❖ SUN Meals to Go Sites – Green Co. Public Library, Russell Co. Public Library
 - ❖ SUN Meals Sites – McCracken Co. Public Library

Scan QR Code to Learn More about Summer Meals at Russell & Henry Co. Public Libraries



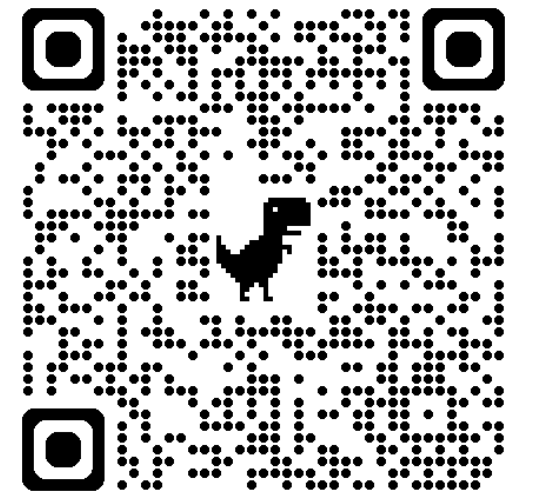
Scan QR Code to Learn More about Summer Meals at McCracken Co. Public Library.



5 Ways: Volunteer Time

- KY school district sponsors repeatedly identify staff is the most frequently identified barrier to offering summer meals as well as challenging while providing summer meals.
- Support school district sponsors by volunteering staff time to pack meal kits, help weekly parent pick ups or committee volunteers for a week as local community partner.
- Example: Livingston County Schools works with local organizations to provide volunteers for a week.

Scan QR Code to
Learn More about
Summer Meals
through Livingston
Co. Schools




5 Ways: Provide Enrichment

- Connect summer reading programs with summer meal programs.
- If your library is a stop on a mobile route, plan enrichment around the pick-up time.
- Partner with sponsors to provide enrichment at meal sites during KY Farm to Summer Meals Celebration Week.

June 21–27



- An initiative with the KY Farm to Summer Meals Campaign, hosted by the KY Farm to School Network.
- Campaign centers on incorporation of locally grown foods into SUN Meals and SUN Meals to Go
- Libraries could opportunities to keep kids engaged in learning through hands-on agriculture and nutrition educational activities.
- If site, consider having the local farmer visit – “Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food

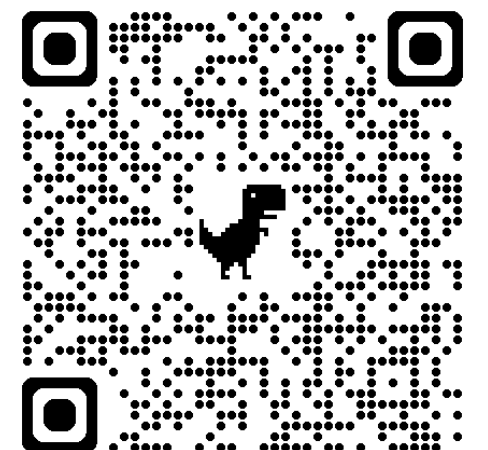


S - SPROUT
U - UNDERSTAND
N - NOURISH

Use the S-U-N theme to plan a full range of Kentucky farm-related experiences for students.
(S)prout for hands-on garden activities.
(U)nderstand for ag education activities
(N)ourish for serving/eating farm fresh foods in summer meals.

LEARN MORE:

[Campaign preview webinar & slides](#)
Scan QR Code for Toolkit



5 Ways: Outreach & Support Families

- Biggest barrier to participating in summer meals is lack of awareness they are available.
- No Kid Hungry Summer Meals Outreach Toolkit
- Flyers, Social Media Posts, Etc, in multiple languages
- Post/Share Flyers Created by Local Sponsors
- Find Flyers through KKE website
- Help Families with Technology Requirements—
Online Sign Up, Summer Meal Surveys

Search Sun Meals & Sun Meals To Go Flyers

This summer program is available in nearly every county across Kentucky, providing exciting opportunities for students and families. To find details about your local program, select your county to learn more about site-specific offerings and activities.



Search Program Flyers By County ▾

Search by Kentucky County

➔ Adair County View Flyer >	➔ Allen County View Flyer >	➔ Anderson County View Flyer >	➔ Ballard County View Flyer >
➔ Barren County View Flyer >	➔ Bath County View Flyer >	➔ Bell County View Flyer >	➔ Boone County View Flyer >
➔ Bourbon County View Flyer >	➔ Boyd County View Flyer >	➔ Boyle County View Flyer >	➔ Bracken County Coming Soon >
➔ Breathitt County View Flyer >	➔ Breckinridge County View Flyer >	➔ Bullitt County View Flyer >	➔ Butler County View Flyer >
➔ Caldwell County View Flyer >	➔ Calloway County View Flyer >	➔ Campbell County View Flyer >	➔ Carlisle County View Flyer >
➔ Carroll County View Flyer >	➔ Carter County View Flyer >	➔ Casey County View Flyer >	➔ Christian County View Flyer >
➔ Clark County View Flyer >	➔ Clay County View Flyer >	➔ Clinton County View Flyer >	➔ Crittenden County View Flyer >
➔ Cumberland County View Flyer >	➔ Daviess County View Flyer >	➔ Edmonson County Coming Soon >	➔ Elliott County Coming Soon >
➔ Estill County View Flyer >	➔ Fayette County View Flyer >	➔ Fleming County View Flyer >	➔ Floyd County Coming Soon >

Resources to Support

No Kid Hungry Kentucky Resources – Summer Meals in Public Libraries



Who We
Are

What We
Do

Kentucky School Guide to Summer
EBT

Resources

The
Latest

Newsletter Sign
Up



Summer Meals in Public Libraries A Partnership Feeding Young Minds & Bodies

Across Kentucky

No Kid Hungry Center for Best Practices – Summer & Afterschool Meals in Libraries

Summer and Afterschool Meals in Libraries

Providing children with meals at libraries is a great opportunity to combat food insecurity and improve the health and well-being of children in your communities

Getting Started

Implementation & Enrichment

Outreach & Promotion

Resources

Program Sponsors of Library Meal Sites





THANKS!

**KENTUCKY
KIDS EAT**

**FEEDING
KENTUCKY**