

Closing the Summer Hunger Gap in Rural America

No Kid Hungry research in rural America found that nearly 3 out of every 4 families living on low incomes with children ran out of food in the past year. The following food challenges were experienced by rural families across race, ethnicity and region in the past year.



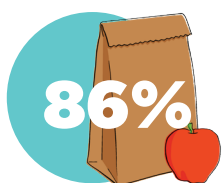
of families worried about running out of food before they had money to buy more.



said they ran out of food before they had money to buy more.

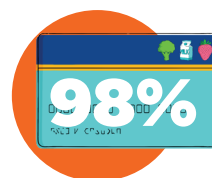
Rural communities located in remote or distant areas, which previously had limited or difficult-to-reach summer meals options, can now provide summer food pick-up or delivery services for kids through SUN Meals To-Go. In more than 3 out of every 4 states surveyed by No Kid Hungry, the new summer meals option reached rural communities that previously did not have summer meals access.

These rural summertime meals are distributed to families by local providers like schools and community organizations.



of providers reported they were able to reach more kids with SUN Meals To-Go than was ever possible before, excluding the pandemic.

SUN Meals To-Go and Summer EBT (SUN Bucks) grocery cards work together to support rural families. Summer EBT is a grocery benefit program for kids in all communities that enables income-eligible families to stretch their grocery budgets by receiving \$120 per child during the summer.



of rural families agree that Summer EBT combined with summer meals helps kids get enough to eat.

SUN Meals To-Go helps kids in rural neighborhoods get food when school is out.

Rural parents widely agreed that summer meals help children get food to eat **(86%)**, stretch food budgets **(85%)** and are convenient **(81%)**.



It provided security we wouldn't normally have."

—RURAL FAMILY OF 3 IN WASHINGTON

We were able to stretch our food about four days longer than without them."

—RURAL FAMILY OF 4 IN KANSAS

It helped with the purchase of groceries, so my child had enough to eat."

—RURAL FAMILY OF 2 IN TENNESSEE

Methods

- National survey of parents living in rural areas eligible for Sun Meals To-Go with household incomes of 185% or below of the Federal Poverty Line
- National survey of state agencies administering Sun Meals To-Go
- National survey of local providers distributing Sun Meals To-Go