



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **No Kid Hungry Tennessee Grants Over \$46k to Combat Summer Hunger in Rural Communities Across the State**

*Summer Meals Program Provides Economic Relief for Rural Families Facing Financial Hardship Due to Loss of Free and Reduced Priced School Meals*

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**Nashville, TN** — When schools close their doors for the summer break, many kids find themselves without access to the reliable nutrition provided by school meals. The 1 in 5 kids in Tennessee who experience food insecurity often face the hungriest season of the year during the summer months. No Kid Hungry Tennessee is working to change that by providing a total of \$46,500 in grants to five organizations across the state to help reach more kids in rural communities with summer meals.

The following school districts and community organizations received summer meal grants from No Kid Hungry Tennessee:

- Bristol Tennessee City Schools
- Cheatham County Schools
- Fentress County Schools
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeastern Tennessee
- South Central Human Resource Agency

Rural communities face particular challenges when it comes to accessing summer meal programs. Transportation issues, work schedules, extreme weather—all can pose significant hardship to families when it comes to connecting kids to summer meals. Traditional summer meal programs have only reached a fraction of kids in rural communities, but non-congregate summer meal flexibilities have been a game changer in recent years. No Kid Hungry's grant funding supports summer meal programs that make meals more accessible for rural families by delivering meals to children who need them or allowing parents to pick meals up at a central location to be taken home for their kids, often for multiple days at a time.

“The tremendous growth in summer meal programs across the state since the non-congregate option became available shows that Tennessee families have embraced its flexibility. As a

result, summer meals are reaching more Tennessee kids than ever before,” says Marissa Spady, senior manager of No Kid Hungry Tennessee.

Summer Meals will be provided by local schools and community groups at no cost to kids and teens 18 years and under at familiar places like parks, pools, libraries, schools and rec centers throughout the state. Families are encouraged to check their school district website for information on where and when meals are available. Information is also available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/sitefinder> and at [NoKidHungry.org/Help](http://NoKidHungry.org/Help) or [/Ayuda](http://Ayuda).

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### **About No Kid Hungry**

No child should go hungry in America. But millions of kids in the United States live with hunger. No Kid Hungry is working to end childhood hunger by helping launch and improve programs that give all kids the healthy food they need to thrive. This is a problem we know how to solve. No Kid Hungry is a campaign of Share Our Strength, an organization committed to ending hunger and poverty. Join us at [NoKidHungry.org](http://NoKidHungry.org).