

# Our Response, Together

## HOW YOU'RE HELPING FEED KIDS DURING THE PANDEMIC

### OVERVIEW

As our country continues to grapple with the coronavirus, one thing is clear: Children across the U.S. are facing hunger at rates not seen in recent memory. Many families are needing help for the first time, and those already in difficult circumstances are seeing their situations become more dire.

Your extraordinary generosity has enabled us to meet this urgent and evolving need. Without you, our school- and community-focused grant funds, new resources, awareness initiatives, and advocacy efforts simply couldn't happen.

Childhood hunger is a solvable problem, and together, we're making a real impact for kids.

### GRANTS

So much of your support has gone directly into local communities hardest hit by this crisis. With your help, from March through early November, we distributed \$41.5 million in funding to schools, food banks and local organizations toward a total of \$60 million before the year's end.

These funds are supporting more than 1,380 organizations in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam and the District of Columbia in their immediate efforts to feed hungry kids. From fueling meal delivery trucks in rural communities and ordering PPE to keep cafeteria workers safe to purchasing pallets of food supplies, your partnership is making a lasting impact.

Communities of color continue to bear the brunt of this crisis, with higher rates of job loss, infection and death because of the coronavirus. This is unacceptable. In the short term, we've targeted 64% of our grants to support communities of color, and we're committed long term to work against the systemic racism that is a root cause of childhood hunger.

We've heard from school leaders and local nonprofits about how challenging and costly it has been to adjust their meal programs to meet uncertain and changing regulations during the initial months of the pandemic, but even more so during back to school. With that in mind, we're giving grantees funds with the flexibility for them to meet the shifting situation.

We'll continue to listen to schools and groups on the ground who know their community's needs best, tailoring our support to build community resilience and feed kids.

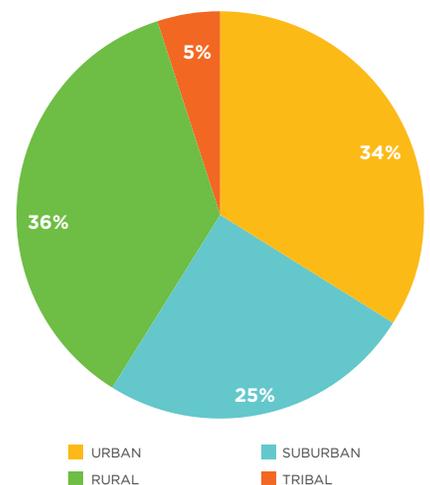
**"This was my first year going without food. I was not going to let my kids suffer. The program really helped us get staples like rice, vegetables and beans. If it wasn't for that, we wouldn't be able to survive."**

**NOAL, MOTHER, CALIFORNIA**



You helped grantees serve a reported **847 MILLION** meals to kids and families across **23,500 LOCATIONS NATIONWIDE** from March to September.

**COMMUNITIES SUPPORTED BY GRANTS**  
\*MARCH - JULY 2020



“I’m just so grateful. It truly has helped my family. I want to say thanks to everyone. We really appreciate you.”

BEVERLY, GRANDMOTHER, LOUISIANA



PROVIDED EMERGENCY GRANTS TO SCHOOLS AND LOCAL NONPROFITS TOTALING NEARLY

**\$41.5 MILLION**



SUCCESSFULLY ADVOCATED FOR NATIONAL POLICY CHANGES TO HELP COMMUNITIES FEED KIDS IN

**ALL 50 STATES**



HELPED FIND FREE MEALS IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD FOR MORE THAN

**200,000 FAMILIES**

## RESOURCES AND AWARENESS

We’ve amplified the impact of our grants by investing in innovative strategies to help feed hungry children everywhere.

As more families struggle, they need to find trusted sources of free meals for kids. That’s why we launched our [free meals finder map](#) and enhanced our summer texting line to operate through the entire year, providing information not just on nearby meals sites, but also on steps to register for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Our targeted state ads have connected 46,000 families with applications for Pandemic-EBT, a critical new program we supported that provides low-income families with the funds to replace missed school meals during school closures.

We’re also supporting schools to reach more children during remote teaching with a new suite of best practices and trainings on running successful meal programs during this crisis. And we’re collaborating with a cohort of national partners through our Back to School Task Force on the safest ways to feed children as schools have reopened.

This June we released a new report, [The Longest Summer](#), to chronicle the struggles of families across the country, bringing national attention to the challenges they face feeding their children.

In partnership with the Aspen Institute, Share Our Strength’s new virtual series *Conversations on Food Justice* is examining the roots and evolution of the food movement and the ways it intersects with race and class, as well as with health, educational and environmental inequities.

“It would be terrible, more than it is right now, if we didn’t have the nutritious food they need. It would be very difficult to manage.”

ELENA, MOTHER, TEXAS





“The benefits of the USDA waivers have been incredibly helpful for us. We would not be able to serve in the capacity we’re serving had it not been for the waivers being extended.”

**AMANDA SCHMITZ, GRANTEE  
MONROE FAMILY YMCA, MICHIGAN**

## **ADVOCACY**

Your support is serving millions of hungry children by making change in Congress, in city halls across the country and with crucial federal agencies.

Since March, we successfully helped to create, launch and extend a new program to feed children in Pandemic-EBT. We secured waivers to help schools and local organizations feed kids with the flexibility that meets both this crisis and communities’ needs. We mobilized a network of 150 mayors, as well as state legislative and executive officials to urge Congress and the USDA to prioritize these critical programs.

In California alone, we helped ensure that more than \$1.36 billion in Pandemic-EBT benefits reached 3.7 million children during spring school closures, supporting over 94% of all estimated eligible children.

With food prices spiking and some meals sites closing, the importance of programs like Pandemic-EBT and SNAP cannot be overstated. They offer some of the best means to tackle childhood hunger and safely

feed children with dignity, not only providing for immediate needs, but also re-building the safety net for children and families. We will continue to advocate to raise the minimum SNAP benefit and increase benefits overall by 15%.

While we’ve made some progress together, children continue to struggle at levels not seen in recent history. Please stay with us in the fight for the policy changes needed to feed kids.

“\$25 a month might not seem like much to any of us, but it is quite literally a lifeline for many families. That 15% increase in SNAP makes a huge difference.”

**LISA DAVIS, NO KID HUNGRY**

## LOOKING AHEAD

In this time of extraordinary crisis, your extraordinary generosity has made all the difference in getting hungry kids the food they need. We've received support of all types, from \$10 donations to gifts of more than \$1 million, including through this year's Emmy® Awards.

For that, we can't thank you enough.

And still, while so much remains uncertain in our world and politics, we know one thing for sure: Kids are going hungry in staggering numbers. Today, tomorrow, beyond this crisis, at this very moment – they need us.

To continue our work to create transformational change, we've launched [The Monday Fund: Feeding Kids Through Crisis and Beyond](#), a campaign to raise and deploy \$100 million by 2023 to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on hungry children and

build solutions for the long term.

Together, we're continuing to learn from communities on how best to support them, and we're dedicated to rooting out the systemic racism that causes childhood hunger for so many.

This holiday season, please keep in mind families and mothers like Darcey, in small-town New York. With her work cut because of the crisis, she worried about how to put food on the table, but you helped put those fears at ease.

"The worst thing in the world is to have to worry about how you're going to feed your family," she said. "To take that weight off is huge, so thank you, from the bottom of my heart."

But more kids like hers need your help. Please stay with us on the long road ahead to keep them fed.

"More and more need is becoming evident. I would hate for this awareness to cease at the end of the coronavirus. Because it's not a result of the coronavirus. It's existed in our community since day one."

**JOHN RIVERS, GRANTEE  
4 RIVERS SMOKEHOUSE & FOUNDATION  
FLORIDA**



P.O. Box 75475  
Baltimore, MD 21275-5475  
[NOKIDHUNGRY.ORG/GIFT](https://NOKIDHUNGRY.ORG/GIFT)

