



Hunger Free
Communities
Network

2021 Hunger Free Communities Virtual Summit

Nutrition Hubs:

How Community Collaboration Can Increase Meal Access and
Reduce Food Insecurity

Jillien Meier, Director

National Partnerships and Campaign Strategy





Agenda

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Speakers

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Introductions

Moderator:

- Jillien Meier, Director of Partnerships and Campaign Strategy, No Kid Hungry

Speakers:

- Mary Teresa Cuzzupe, Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District
- Susan Frantz, LiveWell Greenville
- Susan Silverman, Tucson Unified School District



Nutrition Hubs Overview

The No Kid Hungry nutrition hubs grant was a result of the need to support school districts' and community organizations' collaborative efforts during the coronavirus pandemic to meet community needs at an unprecedented time.



Nutrition Hubs Grant

Purpose: To support school districts and community organizations (out-of-school time and non-profit organizations) working together to serve as nutrition hubs for their communities.

Financial Support: \$50,000 - \$75,000 each to 24 grantees in 18 states, totaling \$1.4 million in funding.

Technical Assistance: Quarterly phone calls between grantees and NKH; unlimited access to NKH expertise; Peer-to-peer connections

Length of Grant: 12 months. Nov 2020 – Nov 2021

What did the grant funds go towards?

Transportation: vehicle, fuel

Marketing: fliers, brochures, videos, wrap for transportation

Food supplies: backpack supplies, groceries

Capacity: staffing to support collaborative efforts

Equipment: new equipment or upgrades to the school nutrition program



Emerging Themes

- **Going beyond meals** – going beyond feeding programs to meet the ever-increasing needs of community members. Ex: providing culinary job training for ex-offenders; providing clothing; creating a family food resource hub at the school.
- **Prioritizing communities of color** – focusing efforts on reaching immigrant and other communities of color. Ex: utilizing an equity tool to build equity into district policy; working with bilingual staff and representatives from the Somali and Latino community to find effective outreach conduits; creating a food resource tool in five different languages; connecting with local church to support a high-poverty Latino community.
- **Creative partnerships** – using creativity to build partnerships. Ex: one org is serving as the coordinating body across multiple faith-based institutions to create a county-wide backpack program; working with a local grocery store to serve a community located in a food desert; working with local farmers to purchase overages (food they can't sell).



Emerging Themes...continued

- **Volunteers** – tapping into, or creating, volunteer networks. Ex: utilizing student volunteers to expand their reach; giving students the opportunity to work and get paid in their food distribution operation.
- **Outreach to families** – challenges reaching families and raising awareness about school meals. Ex: messaging about school meals being for everyone; working to hire people from the community to build more trust and awareness about school meals; partnering with faith-based organizations to connect with families.

Meal Participation Data

The chart below details the meal participation trends in Quarters 1-3.

Grantee Cohort (18 grantees*)	Number of Grantees Experiencing Drop in Meal Participation	Number of Grantees Experiencing Increase in Meal Participation/Same Participation as pre-COVID
Quarter 1 (Dec 2020 – Feb 2021)	13	5
Quarter 2 (March 2021 – May 2021)	9	9
Quarter 3 (June 2021 – August 2021)	6	12
*Several grantees are finalizing their participation numbers; therefore, they are not included in the total		

SPEAKERS

Mary Teresa Cuzzupe

Blackstone Valley Vocational
Regional School District

Susan Frantz

LiveWell Greenville

Susan Silverman

Tucson Unified School District

Questions/Comments
