



### Funding Opportunity – Feeding Missouri’s Children in Summer 2026

No Kid Hungry Missouri, a project of the Missouri Family and Community Trust (FACT), and the University of Missouri Center for Health Policy invites organizations to apply for funding in support of efforts to feed children in low-income areas in our state.

Grants of up to **\$5,000** will be awarded to organizations seeking to increase access to summer meals supported by the USDA’s SUN Program ([SUN Meals](#)) (also known as the Summer Food Service Program or SFSP) or the Seamless Summer Option ([SSO](#)). Please refer to the “project priorities” section below.

#### Eligibility

Qualified applicants must:

- Be a school or a nonprofit organization serving a low-income area;
- Plan to serve free meals to children by participating in SUN Meals or SSO in Summer 2026;
- Plan to serve SUN Meals or SSO meals and/or snacks during the summer out-of-school time (after summer school and before the start of the fall term, generally from July 1 to mid-August). Service may begin earlier and/or continue after this time period;
- Be in good standing with the [Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services](#) (DHSS) or the [Department of Elementary & Secondary Education](#) (DESE);
- Be based in Missouri; and
- Complete and submit this application no later than **noon CST May 8, 2026**.

Key Application Dates	
Open Date	April 17, 2026
Pre-application webinar for Q & A	Wednesday, April 29 at 1 p.m. ( <a href="#">Register Here</a> )
Close Date	May 8, 2026 (noon)
<a href="#">Application Link</a>	

#### Examples of activities supported by this grant

- A school working with a local summer camp to provide nutritious meals for children in July and early August.
- A food bank teaming up with the local library to serve free meals for kids during the day.
- A hospital cafeteria serving free meals to patients and family members 18 and younger.
- A summer camp serving even more kids by adding a site in a new park in their county.
- A nonprofit organization investing in additional equipment to offer meal service for extended hours to children at city parks.



### Project Priorities

[No Kid Hungry-Missouri](#) prioritizes those grant applications from the lowest income areas of the state that are most likely to result in:

- a measurable, sustainable increase in meals served to low-income children;
- increased food security for vulnerable communities in Missouri;
- new partnerships between community and public organizations that serve low-income communities;
- Summer food service in both July and August;
- New applicants.

This project prioritizes applications from organizations that have not been awarded No Kid Hungry Missouri grants in the past. Past awardees will be considered, however.

As part of the application, applicants will be asked for a list of proposed items to purchase. Please note that we may approve all, some or none of the items requested.

In the past three years we have funded over 100 applications for the summer grant program. Here are examples of items funded and not funded. This is not an exhaustive list of items, and your application may request other items.



stove  
refrigerator  
reusable meal trays  
commercial can opener  
salad bar station  
outdoor picnic tables  
cold storage equipment



personnel (wages/salaries)  
gasoline/fuel  
disposable sandwich containers  
food  
laptop  
outdoor lawn games  
rental vehicles



## Background and History

Since 2017, No Kid Hungry Missouri has financially supported schools and summer camps that offer children nutritious meals during a critical time of the year: summer vacation. With more than 800,000 Missourians living with food insecurity, child hunger is a year-round concern. However, children without access to school meals are even more at risk -- especially during the late summer months when summer-school sessions have often ended and fall semester has not yet begun.

No Kid Hungry Missouri supports sustainable efforts to feed children in the long-term; a key goal is to **increase** awareness and access to free meals in vulnerable communities in the state.

Applicants are encouraged to plan ways to increase the meals served in their communities. Partnerships with community organizations, including libraries, parks, nonprofit organizations like YMCAs and Boys/Girls Clubs and schools, can increase a program's impact.

## Participation in USDA child-nutrition programs

All public schools are eligible for this grant. Other organizations serving children are also eligible, provided they participate in the SUN Program (formerly known as the Summer Food Service Program), administered by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. New applications from organizations not yet participating in the SFSP must be participants before June 1, 2026.

Participation can mean becoming a SUN Meals sponsor organization or becoming a site working with an existing SUN Meals sponsor.

***Editor's note: the U.S. Department of Agriculture re-branded the Summer Food Service Program as the SUN Meals program in early 2024. The state of Missouri's website still refers to the program as the Summer Food Service Program, or SFSP, on many of its webpages.***

For becoming a sponsor:

- [Overview of the SFSP in Missouri, including how to become a sponsor](#)
- [Missouri SFSP sponsor application package](#)

For becoming a site:

- [Directory of 2024 SFSP sponsors in Missouri](#)
- [USDA Capacity Builder](#) (online map which includes locations of SFSP sponsors)

## Questions/Contact Information

For questions about this funding opportunity, please contact program managers Kimberley Sprenger at [kimberley.sprenger@health.missouri.edu](mailto:kimberley.sprenger@health.missouri.edu) or Jeremy Milarsky at [jeremy.milarsky@health.missouri.edu](mailto:jeremy.milarsky@health.missouri.edu).

Grants are made possible with funding, in part, through the Missouri Department of Social Services.