

Feeding Kentucky

The State of Childhood Hunger in Kentucky





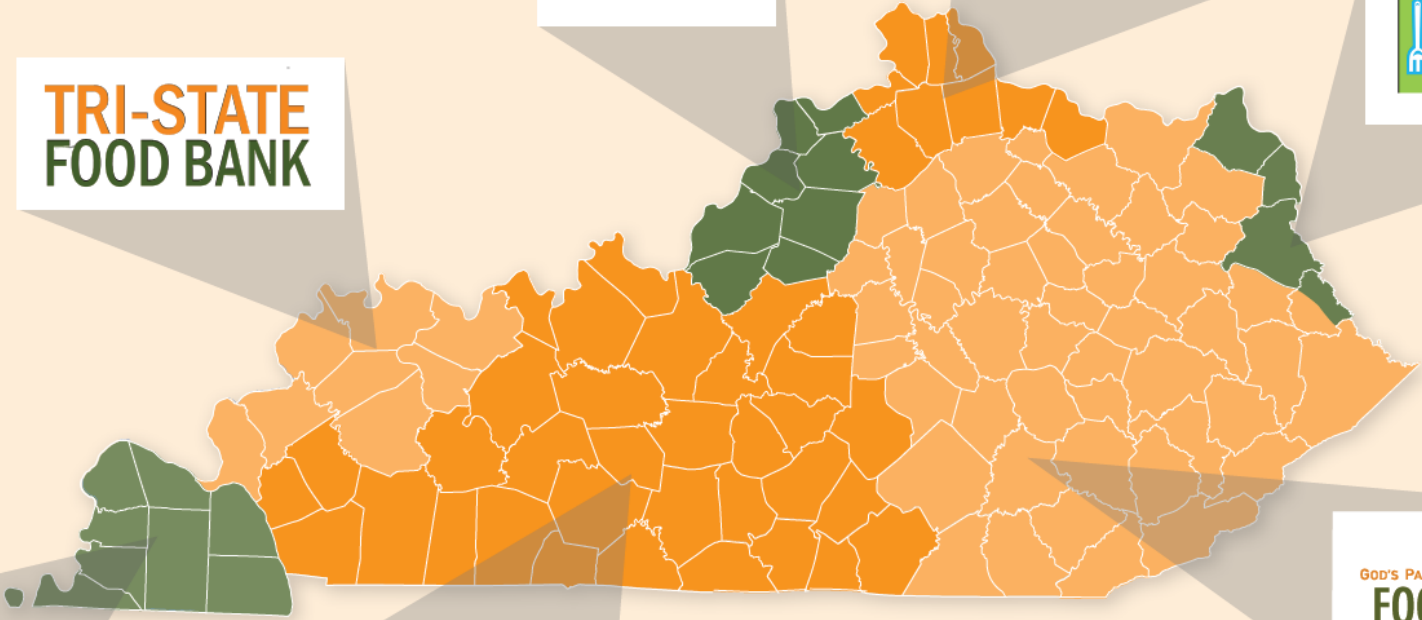
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Feeding Kentucky





No Kid Hungry Kentucky

End childhood hunger in Kentucky by connecting kids to healthy food 365 days a year.

The No Kid Hungry Kentucky campaign, a partnership between Share Our Strength and Feeding Kentucky, is the key strategy to ensuring kids get the food they need by increasing access to school breakfast, summer meals, and afterschool meals.

- **Training**
- **Resources**
- **Advocacy**

A young girl with dark hair pulled back, wearing a white t-shirt and a purple dress, stands in a field of purple flowers. She is holding a red apple with a bite taken out of it. The background is a soft-focus field of purple flowers under warm, golden light.

2

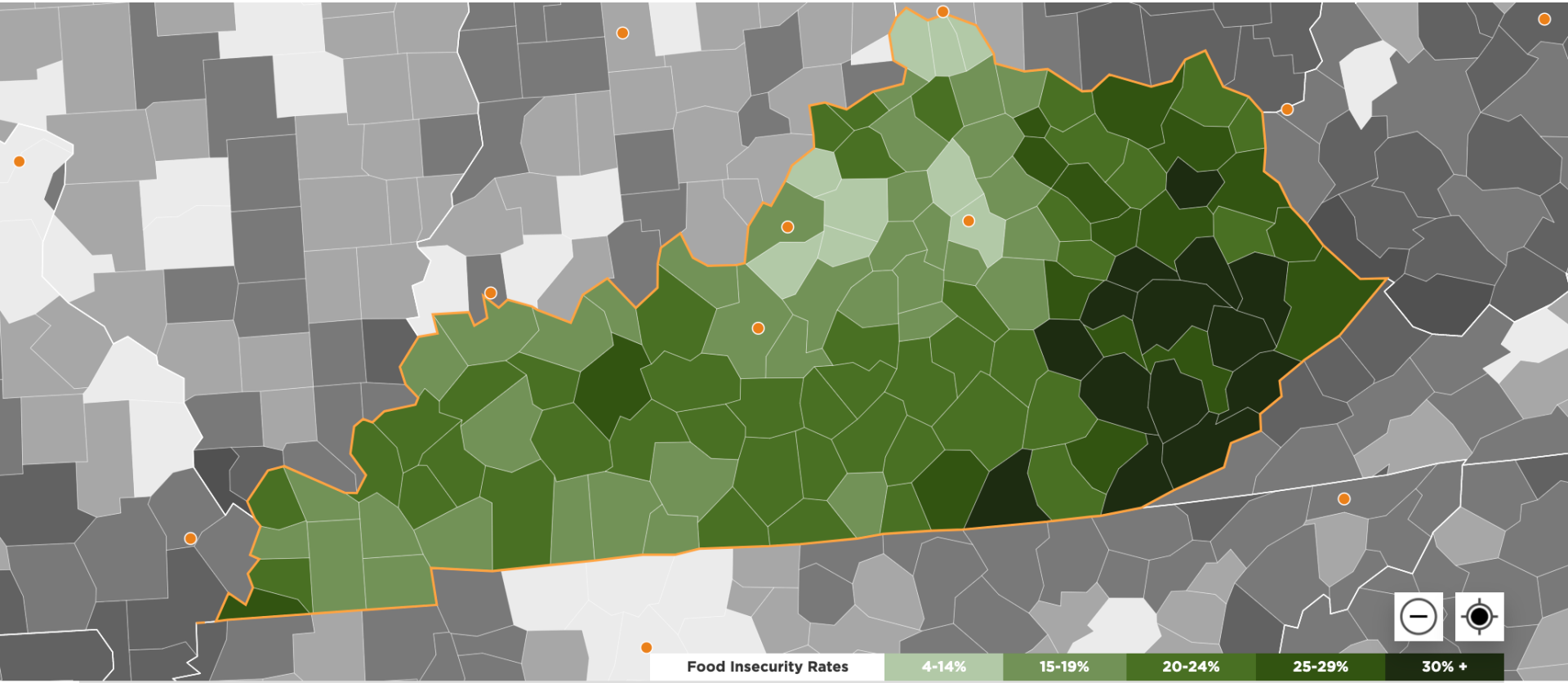
**Child Food Insecurity in
Kentucky, 2018 - present**

What is food insecurity?

Food insecurity refers to USDA's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. **Food insecure children are those children living in households experiencing food insecurity.**



2018 Child Food Insecurity



2018 Child County Food Insecurity in Kentucky



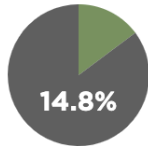
FOOD INSECURE CHILDREN IN KENTUCKY

190,600



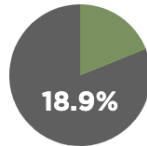
FOOD INSECURITY RATE IN KENTUCKY (OVERALL)

14.8%



FOOD INSECURITY RATE IN KENTUCKY (CHILD)

18.9%



ESTIMATED PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AMONG FOOD INSECURE CHILDREN IN KENTUCKY

- 30%** Likely ineligible for federal nutrition programs (incomes above 185% of poverty)
- 70%** Income-eligible for nutrition programs (incomes at or below 185% of poverty)

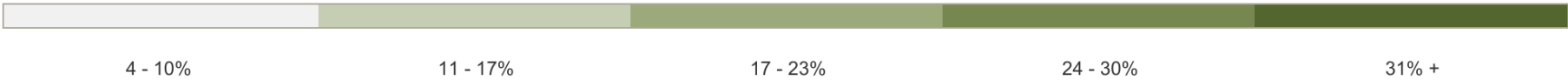
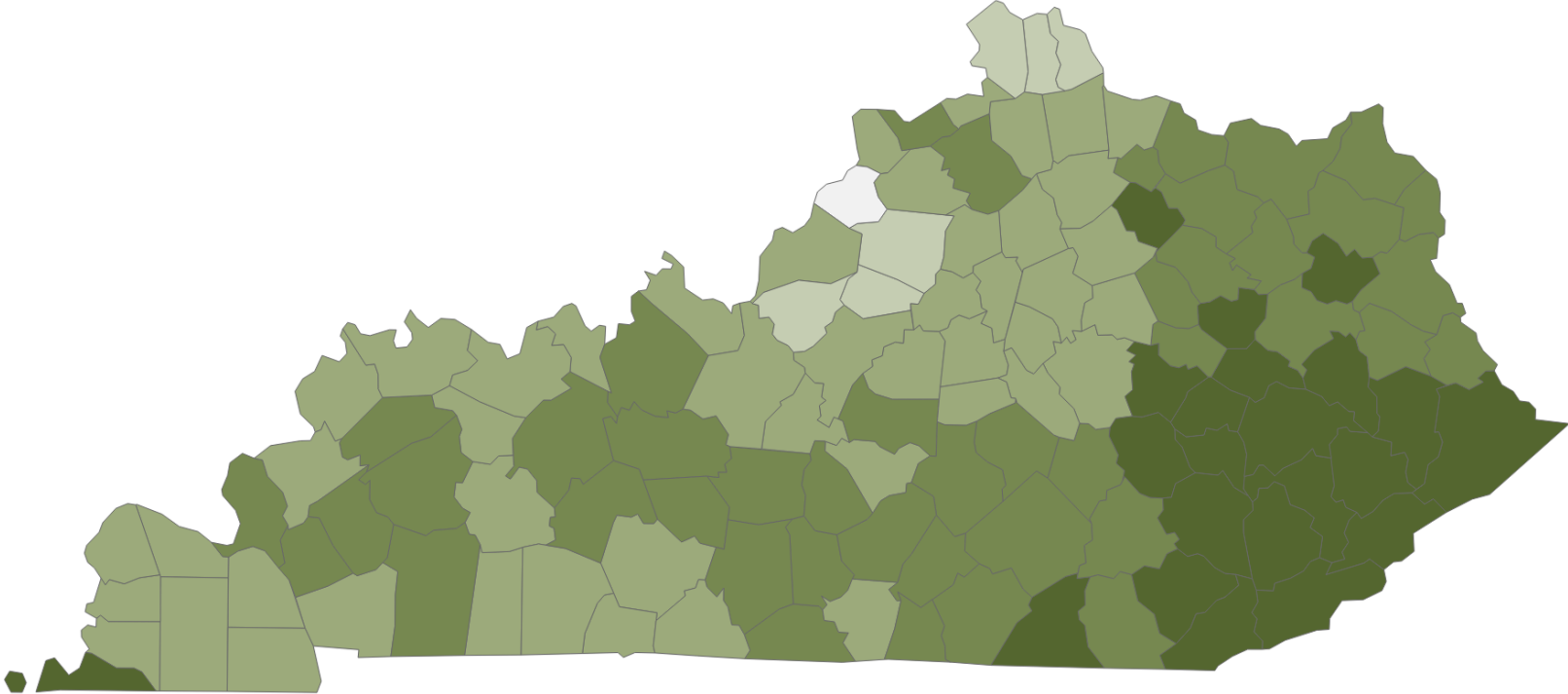




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Impact of COVID-19

2020 Projected Child Food Insecurity Rate – 21%



2020 Projected Child Food Insecurity Rate

The Longest Summer Report

During the pandemic, many struggling families have been forced to make new sacrifices to get by.

39%

are skipping certain bills more often in order to make sure they have food.

“During this coronavirus, I’ve had zero income, I’m definitely going to eat and make sure my kid can eat, over paying the rent. Yeah, we didn’t pay the rent. And that wasn’t easy because they had to evict us, so we would have a couple months before the eviction kicked in. If I had paid the rent, then what?”

REBECCA, MOTHER, OREGON

41%

are eating more fast food/ pre-packaged food.

“That’s one thing I think people don’t realize, when you’re short on money you buy the cheapest possible food.”

REBECCA, MOTHER, OREGON

51%

of parents are skipping meals or limiting the amount everybody eats more often as a result of the crisis.

“The adults eat less food to make sure that the kids have food. We’re trying to do pretty much everything possible.”

MELYSSA, MOTHER, NEW YORK

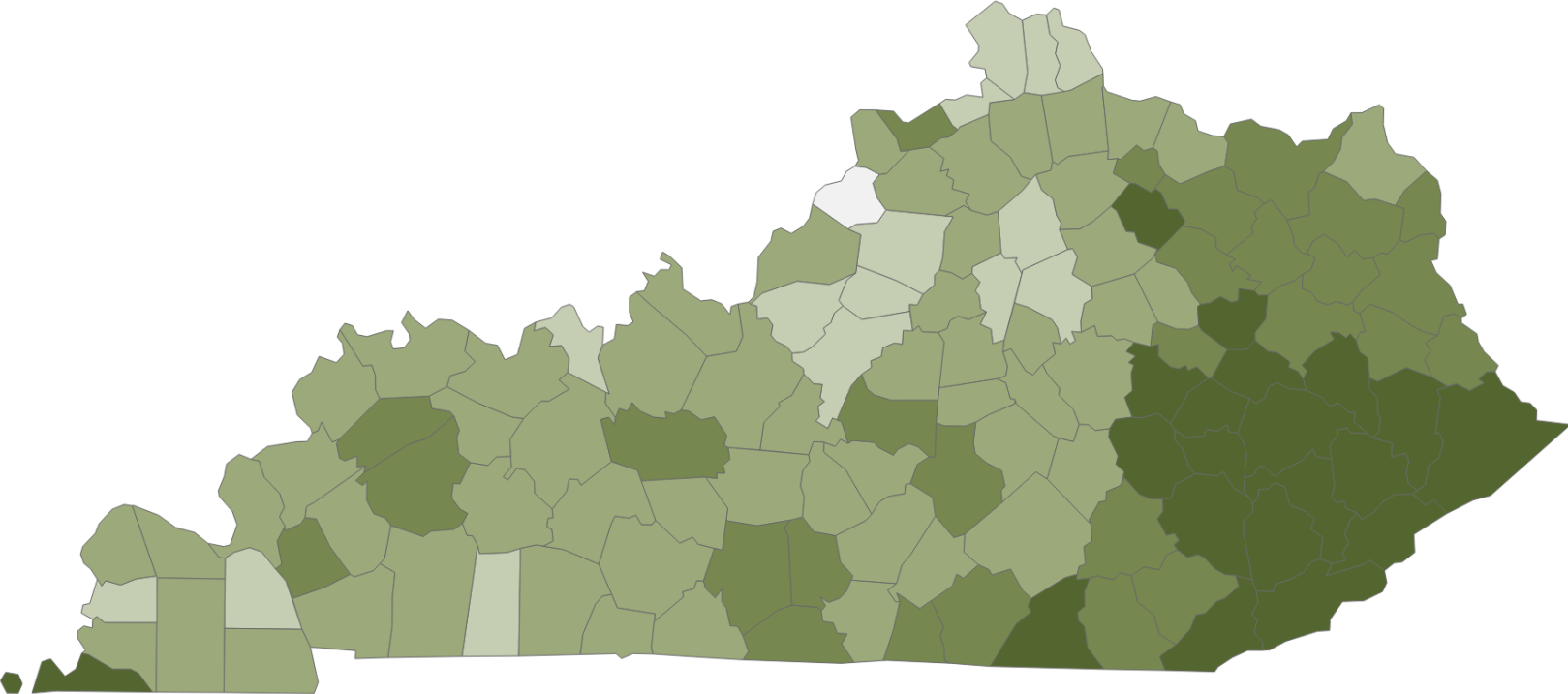
66%

are making more meals with limited options.

“I have to think how to eliminate as many unnecessary items as possible. Like picking frozen food over fresh. And I use coupons more than I ever used to.”

SUMMER, MOTHER, UTAH

Projected 2021 Child Food Insecurity Rate – 18.6%



4 - 10%

11 - 17%

17 - 23%

24 - 30%

31% +

More communities are newly aware of just how many families were living on the edge before the pandemic—and how many children struggle with hunger. **And more communities are willing to invest in a stronger safety net to feed them. It's a safety net we must strengthen, for meals they cannot afford to miss.**



COVID-19 and Policy Changes

- How do we feed kids when they're not at school?
- How do we address increased food insecurity and tight budgets?
- **What have the changes we've made since COVID-19 taught us?**



USDA Child Nutrition Waivers

- March 2020 – Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Emergency Feeding + Initial Child Nutrition Waivers
- Waiver Extensions
 - Over 100 waivers and waiver extensions have been issued since March 2020.
- SY21-22 Waivers – Seamless Summer Option (SSO)
- Summer 2022 and Beyond



PEBT

- PEBT is grocery benefit designed to reimburse families for meals lost due to COVID related disruptions to childcare and preschool.
- The daily benefit amount is now \$7.10 per day – the cost of a school breakfast, lunch, and snack. The maximum benefit amount is about \$35 per week per eligible child.
- **Summer EBT?**



School Meals for All

- Benefits of offering universal free meals are:
 - Reduced or eliminated stigma, as the financial barrier of paying for school meals is eliminated.
 - Less paperwork for school nutrition staff.
 - More streamlined meal service operations.
 - Less unpaid meal debt.
 - Fewer students turned away due to inability to pay.
 - **Increased meal participation = more kids have access to free and healthy meals.**



School Meals for All

- School districts have several school meal funding options for implementing universal free school meals:
 - Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)
 - Provision 2
 - Locally funded universal free meals (“non-pricing”)



School Meals for All

- What's feasible in Kentucky?
 - CEP Participation – 98.6%
 - Change in threshold to 30% ISP would impact Kentucky schools.
 - Local Funding?
 - Estimated 48.3 million and \$53.5 million to implement in Kentucky.





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