

NO KID HUNGRY ADVOCACY IN ACTION:

State Legislative Successes

2012-2024



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report highlights the state advocacy wins of Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign over the past 12 years. From the start, our advocacy work has relied on bipartisan collaboration and community-based partnership. We could not have accomplished this vital work without the dedication and commitment of our program staff, partners on the ground, legislators, and our network of supporters and champions.

Starting with state legislative wins that funded school breakfast programs, we thoughtfully expanded our advocacy to help states meet the child nutrition needs. During the pandemic, we helped enact state and federal regulations that expanded food access for kids and families. Working with our partners, we expanded the refundable federal Child Tax Credit, which cut child poverty in half during this challenging time. After Congress failed to renew this valuable measure on the federal level, we turned our focus to expanding Child Tax Credits on the state level. When some states sought to establish school meal programs that guaranteed no-cost school meals for all K-12 students, we helped them secure state funding through targeted advocacy and activating our longtime community and school-based relationships. Most recently, we worked to ensure that several state budgets included the state administrative funds necessary to pave the way for summer grocery benefits for low-income families with children. **In the last year alone, we helped secure over \$2.5 billion in state investments for child nutrition programs and state Child Tax Credits.**

We are grateful for the support of the Share Our Strength community and look forward to working together to use the power of advocacy to end poverty and hunger in our nation.



Since 2012, we have helped ensure the passage of effective policies to end childhood hunger. Working on a bipartisan basis with State Legislatures, Governors, First Spouses, Mayors, and City Councils, No Kid Hungry has secured critical legislation to support child nutrition programs and relieve burdens on family budgets in 25 states—and counting:

Alabama

Arkansas

California

Colorado

Delaware

Illinois

Kentucky

Louisiana

Maine

Maryland

Massachusetts

Michigan

Minnesota

Nebraska

Nevada

New Mexico

New York

Ohio

Oregon

Pennsylvania

Tennessee

Texas

Utah

Virginia

Washington



ALABAMA

2023 – 2024

The state opted into SUN Bucks during the 2024 Legislative Session and provided \$10 million dollars for SUN Bucks administrative matching funds, unlocking over \$75 million of federal USDA funding to support the administration and benefits of the program. At full implementation, these investments could provide families of more than 500,000 Alabama children with summer nutrition benefits. We provided grant funds to our Alabama state partner, Feeding Alabama, and worked together to secure state funding for the SUN Bucks program in the state.

ARKANSAS

2022 – 2023

The Arkansas legislature unanimously passed a bill that eliminated the reduced-price category statewide, which allowed an additional 50,000 students to get 1.6 million no-cost more meals. We worked with our state partner, Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, to provide public policy estimates and recommendations and provided messaging and talking points to bill sponsors. This work helped tentative supporters to see the potential impact that expanded access to no-cost meals could have on students' eventual positive health and educational outcomes.

“The prices of food also continue to rise at an unmanageable rate. Every time I go to the store, everything is more expensive. I do a lot of couponing to make it work. You often hear people say, ‘Just pull yourself by your bootstraps!’ but your bootstraps only go so far until they break.”

— Mother of four living with disability
Horatio, Arkansas

ARIZONA

2022 – 2023

Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman allocated \$6.75 Million in pandemic relief (ESSER) funds to waive reduced-price meal fees for qualifying families from January 2023 through school year 2023-2024. Share Our Strength's Role: Share Our Strength funded and supported the Arizona State University research used to support the policy.

CALIFORNIA

2023 – 2024

The California FY 2024-2025 state budget provided \$35 million for the state administrative match for the SUN Bucks program, unlocking an estimated \$500 million in federal USDA funding for implementing SUN Bucks in California. Once fully implemented on the ground, the combined state and federal funding could provide more than 3.8 million children with SUN Bucks benefits. Our No Kid Hungry California and Government Advocacy and Relations teams educated and coordinated with policymakers, the governor's office, and state agencies regarding the SUN Bucks benefits program throughout the legislative session to secure the state administrative funding.

When the state approved \$1.6 billion for the California School Meals for All Program, all K-12 students in the state could count on getting no-cost healthy meals at school for the third consecutive school year. An estimated 885 million school meals will be served during the 2024-2025 school year, an increase of 60 million meals over the previous school year. Our No Kid Hungry California and Advocacy & Government Relations teams educated and coordinated with policymakers, the governor's office, and state agencies throughout the legislative session about the program. From the start of the California School Meals for All Program, our No Kid Hungry California team has worked closely

with the California Department of Education and school nutrition leadership to make the program a success.

“Despite a challenging budget deficit, we have secured critical funding that supports the education, health, and well-being of California’s 5.9 million public school students. We share this win with the 150+ organizations that signed on to support School Meals for All this year. Please join us in thanking state leaders for their commitment to California’s students. California continues to set a new standard in ensuring students’ access to healthy and tasty meals.”

— Kathy Saile,
No Kid Hungry California Director

Both school nutrition staff and students often struggle to have enough time to serve and eat school meals. Serving meals to large student bodies and balancing busy academic schedules can squeeze out adequate time to eat meals at school. We worked with our partners to ensure the successful passage of legislation that secured adequate time for California K-12 students to eat during the school day. Both our No Kid Hungry California and Advocacy and Governmental Relations teams engaged with policymakers and school leaders to ensure support and share information about the benefits of the policy change for students and school meal participation.

2021 – 2022

No Kid Hungry California worked to ensure passage of an education budget trailer that provided \$650 million in ongoing support for universal free school nutrition, including access to two free meals every day for all students, and \$150 million to improve kitchen infrastructure and nutritional training.

2018 – 2019

No Kid Hungry led efforts to restore \$500,000 in state grants to support Breakfast After the Bell in the 2019-2020 budget. These grants

helped dozens of schools across the state invest in equipment and other start-up costs, allowing them to transition to Breakfast After the Bell and reach more students with this important meal.

2017 – 2018

No Kid Hungry teamed up with partners around California to support legislation to increase access to school meals by implementing Medi-Cal Direct Certification. This critical red-tape-cutting step reduced paperwork for schools and families and allowed schools to automatically sign kids up for free or reduced-price meals if they’ve already qualified for the state health care program for families living on low incomes. Today, the direct certification process allows local educational agencies to certify children for free meal benefits without further application based on information provided by the state or local agencies administering CalFresh, CalWORKs, and Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

2012 – 2013

No Kid Hungry supported breakfast efforts in Los Angeles, where the Los Angeles Unified School District launched Breakfast in the Classroom to all schools over a three-year period. Breakfast participation in Los Angeles Unified School District, the second largest school district in the country, became higher than lunch participation after implementing Breakfast After the Bell in all of its schools.

COLORADO

2023 – 2024

The Colorado FY 2024-2025 state budget provided \$1.8 million for the state administrative match for the SUN Bucks program, unlocking an estimated \$41 million in federal USDA funding for implementing SUN Bucks in Colorado. Once fully implemented on the ground, the combined state and federal funding could provide more than 350,000 children with SUN Bucks benefits in the state. Our Government Advocacy and

Relations team worked with the governor's team to prioritize the administrative match funding in the Governor's budget request.

New legislation passed in the state in 2024 will ensure that Colorado families with children receive a Child Tax Credit (CTC) of up to \$3,200 per child. Starting in 2025, the expanded Colorado CTC will be paid to all medium- and low-income families, even those that owe no taxes. Experts predict that this \$740 million annual investment will significantly lower child poverty in the state. Working with our CTC partners, we provided policy guidance to legislators and other decision makers supporting the expansion of the program for families.

2013 - 2014

No Kid Hungry worked with partners in Colorado to ensure passage of legislation requiring all high-need schools to serve Breakfast After the Bell to all students at no cost to students.



DELAWARE

2016 - 2017

No Kid Hungry advised Delaware advocates to help them in their efforts for the successful passage of legislation requiring all public and charter schools that participate in the Community Eligibility Provision to begin serving Breakfast After the Bell in 2017.

ILLINOIS

2016 - 2017

No Kid Hungry led efforts in Illinois to pass legislation that required all high-need schools (where at least 70% of the students already qualify for free/reduced-price meals) to serve Breakfast After the Bell.

KENTUCKY

2021 - 2022

We supported passage of Kentucky state legislation that permitted school administrators of schools participating in the Federal School Breakfast Program to authorize up to 15 minutes of the student attendance day to provide the opportunity for children to eat breakfast during instructional time. No Kid Hungry partnered with Feeding KY, Tusk Philanthropies, and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to support passage of this policy.

LOUISIANA

2023 - 2024

The Louisiana FY 2024-2025 state budget provided \$3.5 million for the state administrative match for the SUN Bucks program, unlocking an estimated \$74 million in federal USDA funding for implementing SUN Bucks in Louisiana. Once fully implemented on the ground, the combined state and federal funding could provide more than 600,000 children in the state with SUN

Bucks benefits. Our No Kid Hungry Louisiana and Government Advocacy and Relations teams educated and coordinated with policymakers, the governor's office, and state agencies throughout the legislative session to secure state administrative funding.

2022 - 2023

After Governor Bel Edwards signed Act 305 into law in June 2023, 7,000 children who had previously paid a reduced fee for school breakfast and lunch will now receive those meals at no cost. The state of Louisiana will pay approximately \$860,000 annually to ensure no-cost school meals are available to these students. No Kid Hungry Louisiana and our lobbying team in Baton Rouge worked for the past year to lay the groundwork for the proposal and worked with lawmakers to get the bill over the finish line.

"We don't know these children's stories, we don't know their backgrounds, we don't know what's going on in their homes. We see them for breakfast, for lunch and after school. We have a golden opportunity to make a difference in their lives with our attention, with our smiles, and by giving them something to eat."

— Rosie Jackson

Child Nutrition Executive Director,
New Orleans Public Schools

2020 - 2021

Launched in 2020 to help cover the food needs of children during the time of COVID-related school building closures, Pandemic EBT provided the value of school meals like lunch and school breakfast on an electronic benefits card to families living on low income. The Louisiana legislature passed legislation that allowed for the sharing of student information for the purpose of administering the pandemic EBT, an important step in implementing the program. Governor Bel Edwards signed this policy into law as part of Act 49.

MAINE

2022 - 2023

Governor Mills' FY 24 budget was enacted with a supplemental \$27 million per year for implementation of Maine's School Meals for All policy, which was passed in 2021. We worked with our partner in the state, Full Plates Full Potential, to ensure that funding for the program continued and expanded.

By converting the state's non-refundable dependent credit into a refundable Child Tax Credit and indexing the new program to inflation, the state's new refundable Child Tax Credit policy is projected to help over 200,000 Maine children and lift 3,500 of them above the poverty line. Our Family Economic Mobility worked with our Child Tax Credit Advocacy partners to champion equitable tax policies, including the Maine policy.



2021 – 2022

Through the Act to Address Student Hunger through Expanding Access to Free School Meals legislation, No Kid Hungry helped ensure \$10 million in appropriations were approved to cover the cost between the full and reduced-price and paid meal price to ensure free meals for all students. The legislation also directed schools to participate in federal free meals programs to the greatest extent possible.

Through the Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations, No Kid Hungry helped secure the full funding for Maine's School Meals for All Program, a \$27 million state investment in child nutrition.

“We commend Governor Mills, Senator Jackson and Speaker Fecteau for positioning Maine as a national leader in ensuring every student is nourished and ready to learn. This is a landmark moment for students and families across the state, and we are proud to have stood with such a broad coalition advocating for this important program.”

— Lisa Davis
No Kid Hungry Senior Vice President,
Program and Advocacy

2019 – 2020

Passage of Massachusetts' Breakfast After The Bell legislation required schools with at least 60% of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals to offer breakfast after the start of the school day. Schools could choose how to provide breakfast, such as through breakfast in the classroom, grab-and-go, or second chance breakfast service. This policy started in schools at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year.

2018 – 2019

The Breakfast After the Bell bill required schools in which more than half of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals to serve breakfast as part of the school day and included \$500,000 in implementation funds for schools. This has the

potential to help more than 3,400 students have the chance to start each school day with the food they need to focus and learn. (The other bills we supported eliminated the “reduced-price” category for school lunch and increased efficiencies and reduced red tape for schools in their application processes.)

MARYLAND

2023 – 2024

The final FY 24-25 Maryland state budget provided \$9 million for the state administrative match for the SUNBucks program, unlocking over \$60 million of federal benefits to support the administration and benefits of the program. Once fully implemented on the ground, the combined state and federal funding could provide more than 500,000 Maryland children with SUN Bucks benefits. Our No Kid Hungry Maryland staff worked to educate policymakers, the governor's office, and state agencies throughout the session to secure state administrative funding. The team worked closely with the Maryland Department of Human Services and the State Department of Education to ensure the successful implementation of the Maryland SUN Bucks program.

“Summer has traditionally been the hungriest time of year, but thanks to Governor Moore and the General Assembly, this year will be different for approximately 500,000 children across the state. Working alongside traditional summer meal programs, rural non-congregate summer meals and SNAP, Summer EBT provides a comprehensive solution to the long-standing challenge of summer hunger.”

— Ayesha Holmes,
No Kid Hungry Maryland Director

No Kid Hungry Maryland has worked for over a decade to ensure that the Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA), an important state funding mechanism to advance Breakfast in the Classroom, reaches more schools throughout the state. Most recently, Maryland Governor, Wes Moore, expanded funding of the program to over \$12 million, which allowed all of Maryland's eligible schools to participate in the program, an increase of 123 schools over the previous year. As in years past, the No Kid Hungry Maryland team engaged with the legislature and administration to ensure that information supporting the continued funding and benefits to students was available to them and joined with our partners in the state to advocate for increased state investments in MMFA.

2022 - 2023

New Maryland Governor, Wes Moore, included \$2.25 million in his FY24 supplemental budget request to expand the Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) program to reach more schools this academic year. This funding was realized when he signed SB0559 which authorizes an increase in MMFA's funding from \$7.55 million to \$12.05 million, an increase of \$4.5 million. As a result, all of Maryland's eligible schools will now be able to participate in the program, an increase of 123 schools. Our No Kid Hungry Maryland team has worked for many years to ensure that MMFA funding was steadily increased. Working together with our lobbying firm, the team secured key support for the expansion in the legislature and with the new governor.

Many families have not been able to receive Child Tax Credit benefits, because they did not make enough income to qualify. To counter this problem, Maryland made the Child Tax Credit available to families with children under six and families with incomes under \$15,000. This change will help 400,000 Maryland families. Our Family Economic Mobility team worked with our Child Tax Credit Advocacy partners to champion this and other equitable tax policies.

2021 - 2022

The FY 23 State Budget proposed by Governor Hogan and enacted by the legislature included an additional \$4.8 million in funding for Summer SNAP for Kids. No Kid Hungry Maryland worked for several years prior to securing this and previous investments in Summer SNAP for Kids.

2020 - 2021

We supported passage of legislation that established Maryland's Heat and Eat Program (H-EAT) within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in the Maryland Department of Human Services. Maryland's Heat and Eat (H-EAT) program helps households getting SNAP benefits to be automatically eligible for energy assistance and maximize their Standard Utility Allowance (SUA). The program often leads to an increase in the household's monthly SNAP benefits. After passage by the legislature and governor, the Maryland Heat and Eat benefited SNAP participants across the state, including seniors, families with children, veterans, and those with disabilities.



This legislation created the Maryland Food Resiliency Council, a multiagency formally appointed body that meets regularly to spearhead initiatives to better address food insecurity and food resilience issues across the state. The Council is housed in the Maryland Department of Emergency Management and engages experts in food resiliency across the state.

No Kid Hungry Maryland worked to ensure passage of an annual appropriation of \$150,000 to support the statewide Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program, which supports efforts to address student food insecurity on Maryland's higher education campuses and in regional higher education centers. The Maryland Higher Education Commission administers the program and designates certain campuses as hunger-free campuses.

No Kid Hungry Maryland supported legislation that ordered a statewide study of the effects of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) in Maryland to determine the potential impact that expansion of the program could have there. The study was administered by the Maryland Department of Secondary Education. The CEP allows schools and districts to expand access to no-cost school meals across all students by cutting red tape and eliminating parent applications.

2018 – 2019

No Kid Hungry Maryland led efforts that resulted in the passage of the Summer SNAP for Children Act, a law that provided families with an extra \$30 in food benefits per child for every summer month and \$10 per child during the winter break. This policy helped 2,000 Maryland kids with nutrition assistance during times when school was out.

2017 – 2018

No Kid Hungry Maryland successfully led a campaign to expand funding for Maryland Meals for Achievement, a state-led program that helps schools ramp up Breakfast After the Bell efforts.

This expanded funding of \$650,000 helped more than 20,000 additional students access school breakfast.

MASSACHUSETTS

2022 – 2023

The final FY23 state budget provided \$110 million dollars to provide free school meals for all during the 2022-2023 school year impacting 400,000 kids. In March 2023, Governor Healey signed a supplemental budget that included an additional \$65 million for no-cost meals through the 2023-2024 school year. Share Our Strength has been a long-time member of the Feed Kids Coalition and has engaged through this body to register support for school meals for all among legislators. The Share Our Strength team has also provided policy guidance and data assessment of the proposals.

By increasing the maximum value of the existing credit program from \$180 to \$440 per child and eliminating the existing two-child cap on receiving tax relief, an additional \$305 million in benefits will reach 565,000 Massachusetts families. Our Family Economic Mobility worked with our Child Tax Credit Advocacy partners to champion equitable tax policies, including the Massachusetts policy.

2020 – 2021

Passage of Massachusetts' Breakfast After The Bell legislation required schools with at least 60% of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals to offer breakfast after the start of the school day. Schools could choose how to provide breakfast, such as through breakfast in the classroom, grab-and-go, or second chance breakfast service. This policy started in schools at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year.

MICHIGAN

2022 – 2023

The state enacted a FY24 budget that supports no-cost school meals for all Michigan students during the 2023-2024 school year. The funding totals \$160 million, will impact 1.4 million K-12 students, and includes resources to cover accrued school meal debts from the 2022-2023 school year. Share Our Strength worked directly with the Office of Governor Whitmer, the Michigan Department of Education, American Heart Association of Michigan, and the School Nutrition Association of Michigan to coordinate strategy, policy analysis, and draft legislative language that was used to inform the final budget.

MINNESOTA

2022 – 2023

Governor Walz enacted the Minnesota School Meals for All bill. The policy provided over \$387 million in school meal funding over the biennium FY 2024 – FY 2025. Share Our Strength was a long-standing member of the Hunger Free Schools Minnesota coalition, which was important to the bill's passage offering expertise, testimony and other policy support during the campaign.

NEBRASKA

2023 – 2024

After a \$1.8 million state administrative investment was included in the state's FY 24/25 budget, over \$22 million in federal SUN Bucks benefits were unlocked for families in Nebraska. Once fully implemented on the ground, the combined state and federal funding could provide summer nutrition benefits to more than 350,000 children. We provided funding and technical support to our partner in the state, Nebraska Appleseed, to support their efforts to build support for Summer EBT and secure state funding for the program. Together

with our partner, we worked with communities across the state that understood the value of Summer EBT and coordinated testimonies from community members who spoke about how NOT having access to Summer EBT would affect their children and families.

2020 – 2021

This legislation addressed the “SNAP cliff” by increasing Nebraska’s SNAP gross income eligibility level from 130% to 165% of the Federal Poverty Level. In addition the bill allowed working families to advance in employment and in training programs, and realize greater earnings or new, better-paying employment without an immediate loss of the vital support of SNAP. Governor Pete Ricketts’ veto of the bill was overridden to pass and enact the law.

NEVADA

2015 – 2016

No Kid Hungry supported successful efforts to pass legislation requiring Breakfast After the Bell would be provided in high-need schools (where at least 70% of students qualify for free and reduced-price meals). The legislation also provided \$2 million start-up grant funding to assist schools in implementation.

NEW MEXICO

2023 – 2024

After the state administrative matching funds for \$1 million were improved in the final FY 24-25 state budget, over \$27 million of federal USDA benefits to support the administration and benefits of the program became available for the New Mexico SUN Bucks program. With full implementation of the program, families of more than 260,000 New Mexico children could receive SUN Bucks benefits. We provided funding for two positions within the governor’s Children’s Cabinet to build support and secure state funding for the program. In addition to providing technical support, we called upon our

longtime relationships in the state working with the New Mexico state agencies to advance SUN Bucks there.

2022 – 2023

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed the Healthy Hunger-Free Students Bill of Rights Act, which made New Mexico the fifth state to establish universal free school meals. The bill provided that all participating school food authorities must offer one free breakfast and one free lunch to any student who requests a meal, regardless of their eligibility for a federally funded meal. This \$32 million investment, included one time support to improve meal quality and access to local foods for schools. Three member mayors of the Mayors Alliance to End Childhood Hunger, a key initiative of Share Our Strength, weighed in in support of the bill. Share Our Strength provided strategic guidance and public policy analysis to the Executive Office of the Governor. In addition, we support two staff positions in the Children's Cabinet to lead cross-agency collaboration on budget and legislative priorities.

2021 – 2022

No Kid Hungry helped ensure funding through the FY 23 State Budget to support the position of a food security coordinator in the Governor's Children's Cabinet. This staff person led the state agency through a food security strategic planning process which ultimately resulted in passage of a \$24.7 million state hunger initiative.

2014 – 2015

No Kid Hungry supported the passage of legislation that ensured that K-12 schools, where at least 85% of students were eligible for free or reduced-price meals, must implement Breakfast After the Bell programs, unless the school was granted a waiver.

NEW YORK

2023 – 2024

The state included \$13 million in its FY 24-25 budget in state administrative funds to implement the Summer EBT program (also known as SUN Bucks in other states), unlocking over \$256 million in federal benefits for eligible New York State children and families. Once fully implemented on the ground, the combined state and federal funding could provide summer nutrition benefits to more than 2 million children. Our No Kid Hungry team educated and coordinated with the governor's office, state elected officials and advocates to ensure New York opted into the program and appropriate administrative funding was secured for successful implementation. Our New York based staff worked closely with the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (the agency administering Summer EBT), as well as other state agencies, elected officials, media and organizations to amplify messages to eligible families. In addition, No Kid Hungry New York spoke at a press conference with Governor Hochul announcing the launch of Summer EBT in New York.

"I am a single mom with three hungry bellies at home, and these aren't just any regular hungry bellies; these are teenagers. The fact that Summer-EBT happened was amazing because for me, it was the choice of putting food on the table and paying an electric bill. Because of Summer-EBT, I was able to do both, so thank you."

— Cherise
Single Mother and Strategic Consultant

After a preliminary \$60 million budget cut to New York City school nutrition programs threatened to eliminate many meal items popular with students, we got to work to ensure these budget cuts were reversed and fully funded. At the state level, following last year's \$134 million investment to expand access to no-cost meals, budget shortfalls initially put this funding at risk for the current fiscal year. However, this funding was ultimately included in the final state budget, ensuring that over 80% of children in New York State continued to have access to no-cost meals. No Kid Hungry New York worked with city and state agencies, city council members, and the mayor's office to restore the meal items and secure additional investments and took part in the restoration announcements with the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Food Policy and the New York City Schools Chancellor.



2022 - 2023

The state allocated \$134 million in new funds for the expansion of no-cost school breakfast and lunch across the state. This will be implemented through a CEP subsidy, with the \$134 million based on USDA's proposal to lower the ISP to 25%. While not universal free school meals for the entire state, it is a first and important step forward for many communities, particularly in rural and suburban areas. Our No Kid Hungry New York team worked closely with our state partners on data analysis, policy language and strategic advocacy to secure this critical funding for New York's kids.

New York State expanded its Empire State Child Tax Credit to include children under the age of four. This expansion helped over 525,000 taxpayers gain access to \$179 million thanks to the addition of 630,000 kids under age four. This was Share Our Strength's first success on Child Tax Credit advocacy and involved the concerted efforts of staff across the organization.

2021 - 2022

New York City expanded its Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for city families for the first time in nearly 20 years, resulting in an additional city investment of \$250 million on an annual basis. The No Kid Hungry New York team helped secure the state investment in the FY 22-23 State Budget for the enhanced New York City EITC. The budget also provided a one-year state-funded supplemental payment worth 25% of the state's EITC federal credit.

The No Kid Hungry New York team helped ensure the successful passage of an expanded Empire State Child Tax Credit. This policy provided a 100% supplemental credit for those making incomes under \$10k, 75% for those making up to \$25k, 50% for those making up to \$50k, and 25% for those making over \$50k.

No Kid Hungry New York helped to secure \$1 million in additional funds for the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP), which is administered by our long-time partner Hunger

Solutions New York and provides funds to community-based organizations across the state for SNAP enrollment and outreach.

2020 – 2021

No Kid Hungry worked to ensure passage of legislation that requires that the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, the New York agency that administers SNAP in New York state, participate in the SNAP online purchasing program as long as the program is available. Through this policy, SNAP participants in New York can purchase groceries at select grocers online using their electronic benefits through SNAP.

Through passage of the New York Restaurant Meals Program, some households participating in SNAP could purchase prepared meals at participating restaurants using their electronic SNAP benefits using their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card. This program is designed to serve SNAP recipients who may not have access to food preparation or storage resources or may be unable to prepare meals for themselves. Our No Kid Hungry team was instrumental in securing passage of this bill and sharing technical knowledge of what it looked like in other communities.

2018 – 2019

As part of his 2020 executive budget, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio proposed cutting \$24 million from the city’s Breakfast in the Classroom program over the next 4 years. No Kid Hungry led a campaign working closely with the New York City Council and partners across the city to restore \$6 million for Breakfast in the Classroom in the Fiscal Year 2020 New York City budget. The funding helped schools improve their infrastructure and purchase new equipment for cafeterias, allowing them to serve more students each day.

2017 – 2018

The Governor’s State of the State included the “No Student Goes Hungry Program,” a five-point

proposal to ensure that New York students are able to get the nutrition they need to succeed. No Kid Hungry’s advocacy led to a Breakfast After the Bell mandate as one of the top programs in the proposal.

No Kid Hungry teamed up with partners across the state to ensure the state legislature included Governor Cuomo’s Breakfast After the Bell proposal in the final state budget. Starting in 2018, schools across New York State in which 70% of students qualify for free/reduced price lunch will now serve breakfast as part of the school day. The budget also included \$7 million to help schools cover implementation costs. After full implementation, an estimated 100,000 more students across the state had access to school breakfast.

2015 – 2016

No Kid Hungry led efforts in New York City that supported Mayor Bill de Blasio and the City Council of New York City to approve an investment of \$17.9 million to phase-in Breakfast in the Classroom in all stand-alone elementary schools over the next three years.



OHIO

2018 – 2019

No Kid Hungry supported efforts to pass legislation ensuring high-need and middle-need schools would implement school breakfast before and during the school day. The legislation also promoted transparency in data collection, requiring the Department of Education to post school meal data on its website and provide an annual summary of free and reduced-price meal participation to the Ohio Legislature.

OREGON

2018 – 2019

No Kid Hungry supported the Oregon Student Success Act, a policy that invested \$1 billion a year in K-12 learning. This legislation was the first of its kind in the country and, when fully implemented, helped an estimated 500,000 Oregon students. In addition, the policy required high-need schools (those made up of 70% or more students eligible for free or reduced-price school meals) to serve breakfast after the bell at no cost to students.

PENNSYLVANIA

2017 – 2018

No Kid Hungry led efforts to include \$2 million in the state budget for school breakfast expansion. The funding will supply grants to local schools to help them implement Breakfast After the Bell in their schools, providing start-up funds for equipment, training, and technical support.

TENNESSEE

2017 – 2018

No Kid Hungry supported efforts to encourage the Tennessee legislature to include \$500,000 for Breakfast After the Bell in the state's annual budget. This funding helped schools modernize their breakfast programs and serve breakfast

as part of the school day, a proven method of ensuring that more students in high-need schools start their day with a healthy meal.

TEXAS

2022 – 2023

Our No Kid Hungry team brought school nutrition leaders, chefs, and legislators together to help more Texas children start their day with school breakfast. In June 2023, Governor Abbott approved the state budget, which included \$6.6 million over the next two years to provide free breakfast to all children currently receiving reduced price school meals. We anticipate that this will impact 69,000 students and provide over 11 million breakfasts for Texas kids. No Kid Hungry Texas and its lobbying team conducted a robust legislative education and lobbying campaign to secure this critical child nutrition funding in the biennial budget. To elevate the importance of this investment, we conducted a survey with Texas families on how food insecurity affects them.

2020 – 2021

Legislation was secured that would streamline SNAP for seniors and people with disabilities through a simplified certification and recertification requirements for certain persons under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program. We supported the efforts of our partner, Feeding TX, who led on this bill.

UTAH

2019 – 2020

We supported passage of legislation that shifted school nutrition funding from state liquor tax to a dedicated lump sum from the state.

VIRGINIA

2023 – 2024

Virginia included \$5.6 million in SUN Bucks state administrative funding in its biennial budget, as well as a caboose for 2024. This supports the administration of Virginia's SUN Bucks program in summers 2024, 2025, and 2026. In 2024, the state administrative funding unlocked over \$84 million of federal benefits, reaching the families of 703,000 children in Virginia with summer grocery support. No Kid Hungry Virginia was the first organization to approach Governor Youngkin's Administration to support SUN Bucks funding and used Virginia-specific data and stories to describe the impact of SUN Bucks funding across the Commonwealth. Additionally, the No Kid Hungry Virginia team made the case for SUN Bucks to be included in the caboose budget to ensure Virginia's readiness to respond to the state match requirement, secure the state administrative funding, and ensure successful program implementation.

The 2024 General Assembly increased the state-funded school breakfast supplement from \$0.22 to \$0.28, representing an increase of \$2.4 million for Fiscal Year 2025 and a planned increase of \$2.7 million in Fiscal Year 2026. This \$0.06 increase per meal gives local school nutrition programs additional funds to use to increase school breakfast access and participation. Our No Kid Hungry Virginia team worked closely with partners in the Virginia Food Access Coalition to provide subject matter expertise and strategic advocacy to the legislature and Administration for increased program funding and expanded student benefits.

Virginia passed legislation that prohibits the Board of Social Services from requiring people who are applying for or renewing their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to have to appear in person at state offices to do so. This legislative step eased burdens on current or potential SNAP recipients, the majority of whom work. Participants can submit applications in person, by mail, or

through an authorized representative to the Department of Social Services in their local county or city. Our No Kid Hungry Virginia team worked closely with partners in the Virginia Food Access Coalition to secure this legislation.

2022 – 2023

In the second year of Virginia's 2022 – 2024 Biennium, Virginia maintained \$4.1 million in the state budget for Elimination of the Reduced-Price Category (ERP). Our No Kid Hungry Virginia team engaged with the legislature and administration to provide subject matter expertise and impact data to ensure the continuation of the funding.

2021 – 2022

Virginia allocated \$8.2 million to eliminate the reduced-price (ERP) category for school breakfast and lunch, helping approximately 64,500 more kids access free meals. School meals are now free for households up to 185% of the federal poverty level. Experts on our national policy and data teams laid the groundwork by analyzing school meals expansion efforts around the country and calculating Virginia's ERP cost. No Kid Hungry Virginia championed ERP on the ground by securing support and alignment from state-level partners and successfully convincing Governor Ralph Northam's administration to fund this initiative in the Governor's proposed budget. No Kid Hungry Virginia then worked strategically to maintain the funding as it moved through the legislative session, calculating district-specific impact for every individual Senate and House district, sharing the benefits through fact sheets and one-on-one meetings, and providing support in committee meetings, ultimately securing a bipartisan victory during a competitive budget year.

2020 – 2021

Virginia passed legislation that requires each school board that governs a local school division that contains any public elementary or secondary school that is eligible to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

to apply to participate in CEP for each eligible school. The bill provides that the Superintendent for Public Instruction shall issue a waiver to this requirement upon determination that participation in CEP is not financially viable for a school or group of schools. Our No Kid Hungry Virginia team reviewed an early draft of this bill and worked with experts on our national policy team to provide feedback and suggested edits based on promising practices from around the country. No Kid Hungry Virginia worked with a coalition of partners to voice support in committee meetings and worked behind the scenes to provide subject matter expertise and data analysis to lawmakers on the benefits to kids and families.

Virginia allocated \$3 million of the federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund to cover unfunded costs for the continuation of school-based meals programs while schools remain closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These critical funds helped school nutrition programs cover hazard pay for staff, packaging materials, supplies such as coolers, tables, and fuel for vans and buses used to transport meals. Our No Kid Hungry Virginia team collected timely information about funding shortfalls from school nutrition departments around the state, then organized a coalition of partners to elevate these emergency needs and advocate for support from Governor Ralph Northam's administration.

Virginia passed legislation that directed the Virginia Board of Social Services to amend the SNAP benefits program to: establish broad-based categorical eligibility; set the gross income eligibility standard at 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines; not impose an asset limit for eligibility; and increase opportunities for self-sufficiency through postsecondary education by allowing SNAP benefits program participants to satisfy applicable employment and training requirements through enrollment in an accredited public institution of higher education or other postsecondary school licensed or certified by the Board of Education or the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. Our No

Kid Hungry Virginia team worked with a coalition of partners to support this bill by providing timely data analysis and subject matter expertise to lawmakers and the administration.

Virginia passed legislation that required that schools where 50% of the student population qualified for free and reduced-price meals in the prior school year and offered educational or enrichment activities must participate in the Afterschool Meal Program. The bill provided that the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall issue a waiver to this requirement upon determination that participation is not financially viable for a school or group of schools. The bill requires the Department of Education to develop a process and criteria for evaluating such waivers. Our No Kid Hungry Virginia team reviewed an early draft of this bill, provided feedback, and worked with a coalition of partners to provide timely data analysis and subject matter expertise to lawmakers and the administration.



WASHINGTON

2017 – 2018

No Kid Hungry joined coalition efforts to pass legislation requiring high-need schools (where 70% of students qualify for free/reduced price lunch) to serve breakfast after the bell. After the law took effect in 2019, Washington schools received \$1.2 million in funding to help with implementation costs, including equipment needs, technological support or staff training. It was estimated that the law could give as many as 24,000 more Washington kids the chance to start the day with free breakfast.

WEST VIRGINIA

2013 – 2014

No Kid Hungry supported efforts in West Virginia to pass the West Virginia Feed to Achieve Act, which required all public schools to implement Breakfast After the Bell. As a result of this legislation, West Virginia has led the nation in school breakfast participation through the 2022-2023 school year.



MAYORS ALLIANCE

TO END CHILDHOOD HUNGER

As important as our state advocacy work is to advance our mission to end childhood hunger in America, our partnerships at the local level are critical to this work. Launched in 2022, the Mayors Alliance to End Childhood Hunger harnesses the individual and collective leadership of mayors to end childhood hunger in communities nationwide. Representing mayors from all 50 states, the Mayors Alliance to End Childhood Hunger is a nonpartisan coalition working in partnership with Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign to ensure that every child has the healthy food they need to thrive. Since its start, the Mayors Alliance has continued to grow rapidly, bringing new and diverse voices to the table. With more than 450 members, together these mayors represent over 120 million residents—more than 34% of the U.S. population.

