



PRESS RELEASE

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RELEASE: Pike County Health Department receives grant from No Kid Hungry to decrease food insecurity in young children

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April 14, 2021, Pikeville, KY: No Kid Hungry, a campaign from the national nonprofit Share Our Strength, will invest [\\$3 million in grants to organizations](#) focused on early childhood to help decrease food insecurity among children under the age of six.

At one point during the past year, [40 percent of parents of kids under six reported job or income loss related to the coronavirus pandemic. More than one in five parents reported food insecurity in their household.](#) Early childhood is the most intensive period of brain and body development, and hunger and hardship at this age can have long-term implications for children.

The No Kid Hungry grants will serve more than 120 early child care centers, healthcare providers and community organizations. These organizations work with an estimated 170,000 children under the age of five in 34 states and the District of Columbia, including the Pike County Health Department in Pike County, KY.

“Food insecurity in the early years can have an immediate and lasting impact on overall health, learning, school readiness, and behavior,” says Caron Gremont, Director of Early Childhood for the No Kid Hungry campaign. “These flexible, year-long grants will help organizations provide healthy food to young kids and their families at this critical time.”

Jan Johnson, WIC Coordinator with the Pike County Health Department, wrote and received the grant to help fund and expand the work of the Grace Community Kitchen and the East Kentucky Dream Center. These two organizations combined serve around 1,000 meals per week and about a quarter of those meals are to children under age 5. These have been served out of their Pikeville locations. This grant will allow Pikeville Community Kitchen to deliver hot meals to families with children under age 5 in the Pikeville area. The East Kentucky Dream Center will be able to deliver meals and food boxes to families with small children throughout Pike County.

“\$25,000 will go a long way with these two organizations. They are used to stretching every penny and truly have a heart for helping as many people as they can,” shares Jan Johnson, WIC Coordinator at the Pike County Health Department. “We know transportation is a barrier for many people to access food. I’m thrilled this grant will help the Dream Center and the Community Kitchen deliver food to children.”

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About No Kid Hungry

No child should go hungry in America. But in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, 1 in 6 kids could face hunger this year. No Kid Hungry is working to end childhood hunger by helping launch and improve programs that give all kids the healthy food they need to thrive. This is a problem we know how to solve. No Kid Hungry is a campaign of Share Our Strength, an organization committed to ending hunger and poverty.

About Pike County Health Department

The Pike County Health Department is a non-profit, public service agency governed by the Pike County Board of Health. Local tax revenues, state, and federal grants through the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, and other direct grants provide funding for the health department. Revenue is received from Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, private pay patients, and donations.