



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Significant Gains Made in Afterschool Supper Participation in Kentucky, but Demand for Quality Afterschool Programs Outstrips Supply**

*Report identifies need for more funding for afterschool programs that target low-income children — programs that help reduce childhood hunger by offering afterschool suppers.*

**Berea, Kentucky October 12, 2018** —17,219 low-income children benefitted from afterschool suppers on an average weekday in Kentucky in October 2017, a 16 percent increase from the previous year, according to *Afterschool Suppers: A Snapshot of Participation*, a new report from the [Food Research & Action Center](#) (FRAC, a national anti-hunger advocacy group). The report measures how many children participated in the Afterschool Supper Program and Afterschool Snack Program, nationally and by state.

Despite the increase in participation, only one child received an afterschool supper for every 25 low-income children in Kentucky who participated in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in October 2017. Nationally, the report finds that only one child received an afterschool supper for every 19 low-income children who participated in the NSLP in October 2017.

“Afterschool suppers provide low-income children with a healthy late afternoon or early evening meal, and for many children, these meals help stave off hunger until school breakfast the next morning,” said Kate McDonald, KY Kids Eat Coordinator at the Kentucky Association of Food Banks. “We are working with the KY Kids Eat Coalition to strengthen statewide efforts to make sure that more low-income children who rely on school lunch also can access afterschool supper.”

— more —

Because afterschool suppers are a relatively new option — they first became available nationwide through the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 — every state has room to grow participation in the 2018–2019 school year and beyond.

The demand for quality afterschool programming far outstrips the supply in low-income communities in Kentucky. More public and private funding is needed to increase the number of high-quality, affordable afterschool programs that provide safe environments where children can eat, learn, and play while their parents are at work.

“The nutrition and enrichment activities provided through afterschool programs make the perfect combination for supporting children’s health and learning,” said McDonald. We want to bolster that support by increasing the number of programs that offer afterschool activities and suppers, and make sure they are affordable and accessible for low-income families.”

Read the full [report](#).

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### **About Kentucky Association of Food Banks**

The Kentucky Association of Food Banks is comprised of seven Feeding America food banks that reach all 120 counties of Kentucky and serve an estimated 1 in 7 of all Kentuckians annually. Last year, its members distributed 63 million meals in partnership with more than 800 charitable feeding agencies such as pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. For more information on how you can fight hunger in your community, visit [kyfoodbanks.org](http://kyfoodbanks.org).

### **About KY Kids Eat**

A program of the Kentucky Association of Food Banks and lead partner for Share Our Strength, KY Kids Eat ensures kids have access to nutritious meals 365 days of the year. KY Kids Eat’s No Kid Hungry Kentucky campaign provides funding, training, and support for schools and nonprofits in almost all 120 counties in Kentucky. KY Kids Eat is a statewide connector, a pathway to access for organizations and a megaphone for everyone feeding children in Kentucky. Learn more at [KyKidsEat.org](http://KyKidsEat.org).

The [Food Research & Action Center](#) is the leading national nonprofit organization working to eradicate poverty-related hunger and undernutrition in the United States. To learn more, visit [FRAC.org](http://FRAC.org) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and on [Facebook](#)