

Chronic food insecurity negatively impacts the physical, emotional and cognitive development of children. The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma's Food for Kids Programs work to combat childhood hunger through the Backpack, School Pantry, Kids Cafe and Summer Feeding programs.

Backpack Program

The Backpack Program started in 2003 with a pilot program at five elementary schools. The Backpack Program is now at more than 430 elementary schools in central and western Oklahoma.

This program is available at no cost to all elementary schools in the Regional Food Bank's 53-county service area. It provides shelf-stable, child friendly food for weekends and holiday breaks to children identified by school staff as food insecure. Pre-packaged sacks of child-friendly food are distributed by school coordinators on a weekly basis.



School Pantry Program

The School Pantry Program seeks to provide food assistance to students at primarily middle and high schools and other education-based community organizations. The Regional Food Bank operates approximately 150 school pantries in central and western Oklahoma.

Pantry coordinators order food from the Regional Food Bank based upon need and storage capacity and maintain the on-site pantries. The pantries are encouraged to offer shopper-choice that allows students to select the food items they and their families will eat.

Summer Feeding Program

The Summer Feeding Program is a federally-funded (USDA) program that provides free meals and snacks to children when school is out May to August. The Regional Food Bank began operating this program in 2009 and each summer offer meals and snacks at 100 or more sites located in an area where the nearest school has 50% or greater of students on the free and reduced lunch program and is open to all children 18 & under.

The Regional Food Bank partners with civic clubs, churches, libraries, summer enrichment programs and WIC offices to operate Summer Feeding sites. Qualifying partners must maintain food safety and keep records of meals served.



Kids Cafe Program

The Kids Cafe Program is a federally-funded (USDA) program that provides meals and snacks prepared in Hope's Kitchen to afterschool programs that provide activities to children like tutoring, mentoring, physical exercise and nutritional education. The Regional Food Bank started Kids Cafes in 2012 and the program now includes nearly 60 sites across our service area.

Kids Cafes are offered at no cost to existing afterschool programs at YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, Parks and Recreation Centers, churches, libraries and other nonprofits.



Qualifying sites must be in areas where the nearest school has 50% or greater of students on the free and reduced lunch program and are open to all children 18 & under. Meals are produced in the Regional Food Bank's production kitchen, Hope's Kitchen. Attendance and meal records are required to be kept, federal rules and regulations are maintained.

**To learn more about any of the Food for Kids Programs,
reach out to the Food for Kids team:**

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**THE REGIONAL FOOD BANK ENVISIONS AN
OKLAHOMA WHERE NO ONE GOES HUNGRY.**

