



Healthy Neighborhoods Committee

May 31, 2023

Childhood Food Solutions (CFS)

Who is CFS?

- ▶ Founded in Cincinnati in 2007
- ▶ Began in zip code 45225 (the tenth poorest in Ohio)
- ▶ Worked with School Resource Coordinators to provide free sacks of shelf-stable food for students to carry home for school breaks
- ▶ COVID-19 shut down our schools so CFS focused on home delivery
- ▶ Partnered with Cincinnati Children's Hospital to design a survey to learn what families gain from home delivery





CFS Home Delivery Program Survey Results:

How have these food boxes helped you?

- ▶ “Less stress” 59%
- ▶ “Not going to bed hungry” 51%
- ▶ “More energy” 40%

Current pilot began February 2022;
Results are from 94 recent surveys.



Two other important survey responses:

- ▶ “More money for groceries” 58%
- ▶ Childrens’ reactions:
 - ▶ “Enjoy the food choices in the box” 85%
 - ▶ “Accept the food choices in the box” 12%”

Current pilot began February 2022;
Results are from 94 recent surveys.



CFS Home Delivery Box: 16,000 calories (equivalent to 28 school meals)



These items are a compromise (not a final dietary goal) but they provide free needed calories when families run out of other food.

It's anonymous (CFS has addresses, not names).



Anonymous Hunger Surveys: Running out of food

Regional (20 Counties):

51% of those at or below the Federal Poverty Guideline ran out of food in the past year (often or sometimes)

Local (Avondale, Lower & East Price Hill):

21% reported running out of food
79% agreed with: "People in my community are going hungry."



Anonymous Hunger Surveys: Not enough to eat

National U.S. Census Bureau “Pulse” Surveys:

57 surveys since COVID began

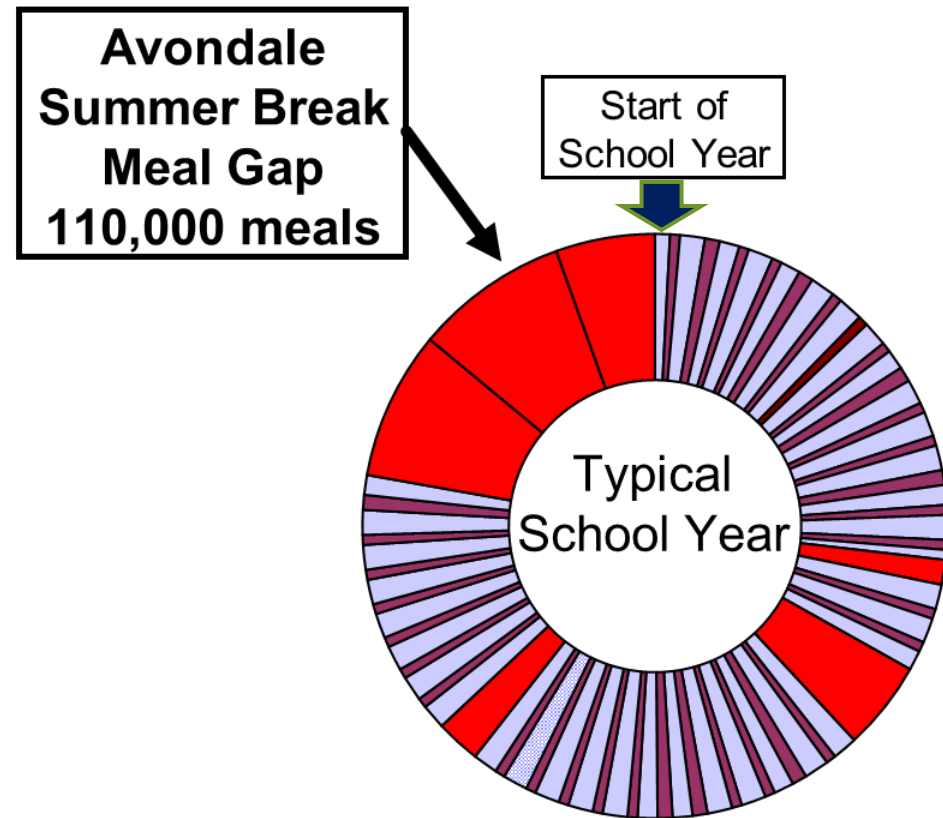
May 17, 2023:

24.8% of Black households with children reported “not enough to eat.”

Running out of food is here and now



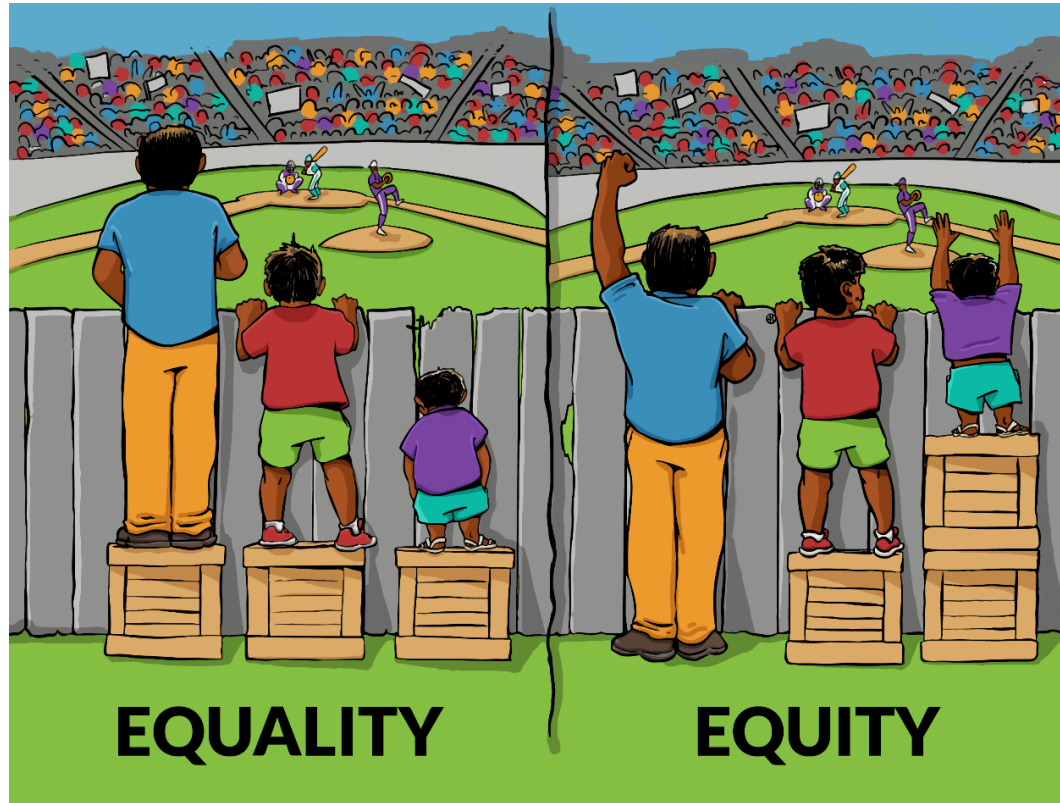
Summer Break means less access to food



84.51° estimates:

- 7,600 empty child bellies on any day in Cincinnati
- March reduction in SNAP benefits: 19.2% per month

Focus on Equity: CFS provides the number of boxes of food that families request (No Limits)



Source of image: "Interaction Institute for Social Change Artist: Angus Maguire." Link: interactioninstitute.org and madewithangus.com.

EQUALITY: SNAP, WIC, school and food pantry limits do not respond to actual need.

EQUITY: Families receive the number of CFS boxes they need to avoid running out of food.



CFS free “No Limits” Program can change the lives of students in 34 CPS schools where 35% failed 3rd Grade and 61% failed 6th Grade reading in 2019

Ohio State Testing (2018-19)		
<u>Failure Rate for Reading</u>	<u>3rd Grade</u>	<u>6th Grade</u>
For 34 CEP Schools:	35%	61%
For 6 Non-CEP Schools:	12%	18%

CEP = Community Eligibility Provision
(Cincinnati Public Schools)

Students receive free school meals on 178 days a year. “No Limits” is year round.



Cincinnati's need - 7,600 children - is much bigger than CFS can handle logistically

What if CFS could partner with Kroger and use their groceries and their packing and delivery resources?

What if Children's Hospital could continue to support CFS in highlighting health improvements?

What if the City of Cincinnati could end child hunger here and then help Kroger end child hunger nationally?



This is a Kroger Delivery: 34,500 calories (equivalent to 60 school meals) - \$49.02



The basic need for food must be met on a daily basis

- Hunger means not enough caloric fuel to function well at school or at work.
- Hunger leads to stress, anxiety and hopelessness
- Current government programs and heroic charitable efforts have NOT ended: “Running out of food” and “Not enough to eat.”



Cincinnati is not alone

Running out of food was highlighted by
President Biden (September, 2022)

**“Too many families don't know where they
are going to get their next meal.”**

Cincinnati is not alone but we can lead
by targeting the President's exact issue:

**“Your next meal will be in the box that
was delivered to your doorstep.”**

