

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State of Montana

Steve Bullock
Governor



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Governor, First Lady Bullock Announce \$15,000 No Kid Hungry Grant Awarded to Kalispell Public Schools for Meals During COVID-19 Emergency

KALISPELL – Governor Steve Bullock, First Lady Lisa Bullock, and Montana No Kid Hungry today announced a \$15,000 grant to support Kalispell Public Schools Food Service's work to reach families in need of meals as part of the response to COVID-19.

"Access to nutritious meals for families is critical throughout the year and especially during this difficult time," Governor Bullock said. "We're fortunate that Montana No Kid Hungry is there to partner with our local communities. I thank all the schools and communities across the state that are stepping up to meet the needs of our children."

"When faced with difficult challenges, Montana communities rally around each other to support residents," First Lady Lisa Bullock said. "The way Kalispell Public Schools has responded is a great example of how the entire state is working together to meet the needs of our friends and neighbors."

The grant funds will be used to help keep Kalispell's meal service up and running while schools are closed due to COVID-19. Jon Graham, Food Service Director for Kalispell Public Schools, said the grant will be used to pay for food, packaging, and staff payroll. "This grant will make a huge difference in the community," Graham said.

During the first week of school closures, the Kalispell Food Service team served approximately 900 meals, and now that number has risen to 2,000 per week. Meals are offered to families for pickup every day of the week with lunch for that day and breakfast for the next morning.

Graham said her team has taken this role very seriously. "When school closures were announced, our team moved quickly to respond," she said. "We know how important our role is to deliver nutritious food to the kids who normally rely on school meals as well as families who have a new need as a result of coronavirus-related challenges."