

Community of Practice Call

COVID-19 Emergency Food Service

April 30, 2020

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California Food for California Kids is an initiative of the Center for Ecoliteracy



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Inspiration, support and guidance for school nutrition professionals.
Partnering with over 50 California school nutrition programs since 2016.





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agenda

- district spotlights
- SY 20-21 planning
- advocacy
- policy
- leadership corner
- resources
- discussion

usda professional standards

3110, 3240, 3260, 3220, 3420, 4150





THANK
YOU!

5TMA570

school food innovators





unsung heroes

“I want to acknowledge the incredible work happening during this crisis. They’re placing their lives on the line as ‘first responders,’ which was asked of them by the federal government under the united states department of agriculture. I want my staff to feel **appreciated** for the **incredible** work they are doing. They are unsung **heroes**.”

Dominic Machi

**Director of Food and Nutrition Services
Mt. Diablo Unified School District**



planning for *sy* 20-21

reopening schools

national

- centers for disease control (CDC) guidance is forthcoming
- **expect:** decision trees, general advice for states and locals

california

- schools potentially start the year earlier in july; no official decision
- **expect:** local decision-making; radical changes to the school day

but first.... testing!

case study: san diego county school districts

SDCOE pandemic plan includes:

- public health assumptions
- school operations with social distancing
- attendance
- funding
- social and emotional health
- community engagement
- **school nutrition programs**

case study: san diego county SNPs

A. plan for multiple scenarios

- a. **some** districts open, continue non-congregate meals
- b. **more** districts open, reduce non-congregate sites based on need
- c. **all** districts open w/ social distancing, close non-congregate sites; *"the new normal"*
- d. **all** districts open, no COVID-19 restrictions; *"not foreseeable"*
- e. **close** schools (again), COVID-19 restrictions, re-open non-congregate meal sites

"Those who have [multiple] plans will be best prepared"

national advocacy update

advocacy

- AND, SNA, CSPI + 35 more organizations signed on!
- **\$2.6 billion** requested for school nutrition deficits March-June 2020

April 27, 2020

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chairman
U.S. Senate
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Bishop and Hoeven and Ranking Members Fortenberry and Merkley:

Thank you for your diligent work on the COVID-19 relief packages. We appreciate the opportunity to provide a recommendation for the fourth package and thank you in advance for your consideration of the unique situation of school nutrition programs.

As the nation grapples with the impact of COVID-19 disruptions, school nutrition professionals are working on the frontlines to combat rising levels of food insecurity in their communities. School meal programs chose to keep workers employed, deliver meals to students with no additional reimbursement, and expose staff to the coronavirus with little to no funding for proper personal protective equipment. Many maintained fixed expenses such as salaries while taking on unanticipated expenses such as hazard pay and transportation.

School nutrition programs rely on reimbursement from meal service to pay for expenses. Last year between the months of March and June, school nutrition programs served more than 2.5 billion meals and snacks, receiving over \$5 billion in reimbursement. Now according to early reports, programs are serving only a fraction of those meals; this unanticipated loss of revenue has forced programs to tap into fund balances and draw upon lines of credit to sustain their operations. Looking to recovery, it is imperative to support these programs while protecting jobs and limited education resources. Funding must be provided to make programs financially solvent and to maintain the integrity of essential food security programs as the recovery process begins, with many more children relying on school meal programs.

We urge Congress to provide \$2.6 billion to mitigate a portion of the estimated, significant financial loss that school nutrition programs have and will continue to experience. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

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pandemic ebt

p-ebt

- up to \$365 per child
- automatically sent to children on DC list
- other families can apply online starting mid-may

webinars today:

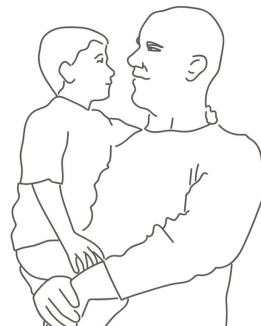
10 a.m. pacific (cde)

12 p.m. pacific (frac)

Pandemic EBT

Get help buying food while schools are closed

Because schools are closed due to COVID-19, children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals can get up to \$365 in food benefits in addition to their pick up meals from school. These food benefits are called Pandemic EBT or P-EBT.



P-EBT benefits coming soon in **May 2020**

How will families get their P-EBT benefits?

Most families with children who applied for CalFresh or Medi-Cal benefits do not need to apply. They will get their P-EBT card in the mail during the month of May. P-EBT cards will begin arriving around May 7, 2020 through May 22, 2020.

Families with children who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals and who do not get their P-EBT card in the mail by May 22, 2020 must apply online before June 30, 2020.

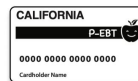
*Students can still pick up to-go meals if they have P-EBT benefits.

Where can families apply?

Families should look out for a message from their school district or local community based organization about how to apply in mid to late May.

Use it like a debit card.

Families will get up to \$365 per eligible child on their P-EBT card to use on food and groceries. If you already have this card, you do not need to apply online.



P-EBT is a program by CDSS and CDE, funded by the USDA, an equal opportunity provider and employer.

policy updates

policy updates

waiver #14

area eligibility

- closed enrolled sites can use area eligibility data in lieu of apps
- expires september 30th

waiver #17

meal service times

- meals may be served at any time

waiver #19

FSMC duration in the NSLP + SFSP

- contracts that may expire by June 30 are extended through SY 20-21

waiver #20

CACFP annual review requirements

- all monitoring requirements waived
- states must elect to use it

leadership corner

“Allow yourself to feel the frustration for a few hours or a few days. But then ask yourself: What can I learn from it? What is the next step that I can be working on? Get resilient at handling the frustration that comes with uncertainty.”

Ben Feringa

2016 Nobel Prize in Chemistry Winner

uncertainty capability

- our ability to deal with the unknown is largely **learned**
- “framing” = how we perceive our options
 - **learning** - what can i learn from this challenge?
 - **game** - frustration is all part of the game
 - **gratitude** - recognize all that you already have
 - **randomness** - “what happens to me isn’t always my doing”

Source: “You’re Not Powerless in the Face of Uncertainty”, Harvard Business Review

resources + requests

resource updates

- emergency meal service toolkit 2.0

requests

- have some inspiration you'd like to share with the group?
- questions you would like us to investigate?
- interested in being part of data collection efforts for policy work?
- send us an email!

discussion

thank you!