Community of Practice Call

COVID-19 Emergency Food Service

May 14, 2020

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UlunchAssist

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CALIFORNIA FOOD FOR CALIFORNIA KIDS®

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









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





recap of last call

- reopening schools
- USDA waivers #13-21
- participation strategies
- lunch at the library
- emergency food service training
- managing yourself



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agenda

- district spotlights
- funding
- policy updates
- P-EBT
- resources
- leadership corner
- discussion

usda professional standards

3220, 3240, 3220, 3360, 3410, 4150



school food innovators



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reopening schools?



reopening schools

national

- strong government push for reopening
- growing concerns from health officials about COVID-19 health impacts on youth & overall readiness to open schools

california

- CDE & OES PPE survey
- state task force exploring reopening questions & challenges
- \$18.4 billion budget deficit

funding updates

CARES act

• \$1.6 billion for california elementary/secondary relief*

- 90% to LEAs; 10% to state services
- training and staff development, purchasing of supplies, planning and coordinating for school meal services

• \$700 million for california SNPs

• only allowable cost is meal reimbursements

FEMA

request for public assistance (RPA)*

- apply through OES until 30 days after disaster conclusion
- sooner is better!
- applicant = LEA
- explore eligibility for labor, equipment, supplies, administrative costs
- "funding of last resort"

state funding

• CA disaster relief

- CA ed code 49505
- offsets fixed expenses
- contingent on available funds
- no "double dipping"
- COVID-19 LEA response fund (SB 117)*
 - \$100 million
 - nutrition services & meal access

	APPLICATION for M (1) According to California Departme receive funding from the Federal Em receive reimbursement for meals the on available funds.	SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (I IEAL REIMBURSEMENT DURI Int of Education legal counsel, it is illegal a sergency Management Agency (FEMA) for rough this application; and (2) reimburseme	NG DISASTER nd considered "double-dipping" to lost revenues and to claim and
	trict/Agency Name:		
Address:			
City:	St. 16	County:	Zip:
CNIPS ID N		Vendor Number:	
Phone Nur		Fax Number:	
SECTION A	A - DISASTER INFORMATION		
1.)	schools in our district were clos owing dates: ip #2 and Section B; go to Section ly the following schools sites list	a Education Code (EC) Section 49505(c). ed and meals were not served to childr (C.) ted below in Section B were closed (a a are also listed. (Complete Sections B	en due to this disaster on the
	3 – REIMBURSEMENT CALCUL		
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heroes act: feed the children

- \$3 billion for CNPs
- reimbursement
 - 55% of lost revenue march-june 2019 vs 2020
- USDA foods <u>></u> 2019 allocation
- FFVP flexibilities

the house **votes** this friday

must also pass the senate...



action for healthy kids grant

- **who?** districts currently feeding students
- what? receive up to \$2,000 for:
 - coolers, insulated bags, carts, packaging, PPE, or other equipment through hubert
- when? ASAP! grants open now and awarded weekly.
- **priority** for districts in specific locations (fresno)



COVID-19 Support for Schools and Families

Action for Healthy Kids is meeting the needs of schools and families impacted by school closures due to COVID-19. Read below to learn more about our Emergency Meal Distribution Equipment Grants made possible with support from our generous sponsor, Cargill.

Emergency Meal Distribution Equipment Grants

School nutrition professionals across the county have stepped up to get food to kids during school closures. Districts and schools have shared with us the need for additional equipment to create grab-and-go curbside meal pickups at schools and other locations within the community. additional hot and cold food storage containers, grab-and-go packaging materials, and mobile distribution to families in outlying or rural communities. Working with the equipment vendor, <u>Hubert</u>, AFHK will provide selected school districts with equipment credits for \$1,000-\$2,000 per site to purchase equipment.

- Applications will be reviewed and awarded on a rolling basis: Applications submitted by Friday of each week will be reviewed and awarded by the following Friday.
- Awarded districts will receive a letter detailing their award with a purchasing code for their Hubert orders, and awarded districts will
 work with Hubert customer service to order the items needed.
- Deadline: Rolling deadline until all funds are awarded.

policy updates

waivers

updates

- california will **opt-in** to all waivers
- FFVP parent pick up (**new**)
- #21: "status quo" through June 30

pending for summer 2020

- non-congregate
- area eligibility
- meal pattern (*expires may 31*)

not approved

• claiming adult meals

	United States Department of Agricultu
Food and Nutrition Service	May 6, 2020
Braddock Metro Center	Ms. Kim Frinzell Director
1320 Braddock Place	California Department of Education 1430 N Street, Suite 4503 Sacramento, California 95814-5901
Alexandria VA 22314	Dear Ms. Frinzell:

This letter is in response to California Department of Education's (CDE) April 28, 2020, request to waive the requirement that Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) foods may only be provided to students during non-congregate meal services due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Under current requirements, Program operators must provide FFVP foods directly to students.

Specifically, CDE's request requires a statewide waiver of the distribution requirements at Section 19(b) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA) (42 USC 1769a). As implemented, Section 19(b) requires Program operators to provide FFVP foods directly to students, not to parents and guardians. However, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes that in this public health emergency, continuing to require children to come to the meal site to pick up meals may not be practical and in keeping with the goal of providing meals while also taking appropriate safety measures.

Because the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127) did not include FFVP as a "qualified program," the nationwide waiver allowing parents to pick up meals for children at non-congregate sites does not apply to FFVP. Therefore, State agencies must request a waiver under Section 12(1) of the NSLA to permit Program operators with an approved waiver allowing non-congregate meal distribution during COVID-19-related operations to distribute FFVP foods to a parent or guardian to take home to their children.

To grant a Section 12(1) waiver, the NSLA requires that the waiver must facilitate the purpose of the program, the public must receive notice and information regarding the proposed waiver, and the waiver will not increase the overall cost of the program to the Federal Government. FNS finds that CDE's waiver request satisfies these statutory requirements.

Accordingly, based on the exceptional circumstances relating to the declaration of a public health emergency due to COVID-19, and pursuant to the waiver authority granted at section 12(1) of the NSLA, FNS approves CDE's waiver request of the FFVP distribution requirements found at Section 19(b) of the NSLA, through June 30, 2020, or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier. Please note, CDE also requested flexibility to allow any school site operating one of the

waiver recordkeeping

Waiver No.	Title	Program	How to Apply (california)
#1, #2, #17	Meal Service Times Non-congregate feeding	SSO, SFSP	<u>snpinfo@cde.ca.gov</u> & update CNIPS
#1, #2, #17	Meal Service Times Non-congregate feeding	CACFP	http://surveys2.cde.ca.gov/s.asp?k=15852671 9023 & update CNIPS
#3	Afterschool Enrichment Activities	CACFP, SNP	http://surveys2.cde.ca.gov/s.asp?k=15852671 9023
#4, #13	Meal Pattern Waiver	CACFP, SNP	https://surveys2.cde.ca.gov/go/mealpatternc ovidwaivers.asp
#18	Triennial Assessment of LSWP	SNP	https://surveys2.cde.ca.gov/go/lswptriennial waiver.asp
n/a	Area Eligibility for Schools <50% Free/Reduced	SSO, SFSP	https://surveys2.cde.ca.gov/go/cnpareaeligib ilitywaiver.asp

Summary of COVID-19 Child Nutrition Program Response Nationwide Waivers & Memos

State agencies are eligible to use all nationwide waivers without application, but they must still elect to be subject to the waiver by notifying their USDA Regional Office. These waivers do **not** apply to all operators automatically -- state agencies must opt in and provide information to operators before operators can implement the waiver. For all waivers, a report must be made within a year summarizing the use of the waiver by the state and program operators as well as whether the waiver improved services to program beneficiaries.

HUNGRY

center for BEST PRACTICES

This document was last updated on 5/7/2020. See the <u>USDA FNS website</u> for all nationwide waivers and contact your state agency for more information about these and other waivers. See the end of this document for a glossary of acronyms and terms.

Waiver or Memo #	Waiver Name	Programs Covered	Release Date	End Date	What It Does	Notes
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #1	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Service Time Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs	NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP	March 20, 2020	June 30, 2020*	 Provides flexibility for serving times. Allows for serving multiple meals for the same day at one time. 	 Operators must still establish meal service times or delivery times. At this time, only SFSP or SSO operators may distribute meals for multiple days at the same time.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #2	Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non- congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs	NSLP, SBP, SSO, SFSP, CACFP	March 20, 2020	June 30, 2020*	 Allows for off-site consumption of meals & serving models like grab-n-go, curbside pick-up, mobile/bus routes, and home delivery. 	
N/A (<u>Q&A</u>)	COVID-19 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Meal Delivery Using Existing Authority	SFSP & SSO		As long as #2 is in effect	 Sets guidelines & restrictions around home delivery Clarifies that meals can be served through SFSP/SSO during spring break if break is postponed or cancelled. Clarifies that NSLP/SBP can be used during distance learning. 	 Parents must consent in writing & verify their address before starting delivery. The child does not need to be present for delivery; no one needs to be present for delivery of shelf-stable food. Delivery must be led or run by SFA but can involve other partners with parental consent to share their information.
COVID-19: Child Nutrition Response #3	Nationwide Waiver of the Activity Requirement in Afterschool Care Child Nutrition Programs	NSLP Afterschool Snacks & CACFP At-Risk Afterschool	March 20, 2020	June 30, 2020*	Eliminates need for supervised enrichment programming.	 Allows CACFP At-Risk Afterschool sites to function similar to SFSP open sites.

*Or until the end of the public health emergency, whichever is earlier

Latest version available at: http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/resource/summary-current-covid-19-child-nutrition-program-response-nationwide-waivers



P-EBT

what you can do

• build public awareness!!

faq's

- \$365 / child (one time funds)
- eligibles students:
 - qualified for free/reduced meals
 - enrolled in P2 or CEP schools
- **do not** need to apply if receiving:
 - o calfresh, calworks, medi-cal, etc. (DC)
- do need to apply if eligible but do not get card in mail

may 22: P-EBT cards for DC students delivered **june 30:** deadline to apply

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

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-E8T card to use on food and groceries. If you already have this card, you do not need to apply online.



0000 0000 0000 0000 Cardhaller Name

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 12, 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.

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

P-EBT communications

- students who receive p-ebt **are** still eligible to pick up free meals at sites
- does **not** impact immigration status/public charge
- easy application: (1) name
 (2) address
 (3) school site

Tip: consider print media, social media, email, text, and phone calls

No evidence of eligibility is required (no letters from the school, etc)

P-EBT toolkit

- sample all call scripts
- sample text messages, emails, social media
- FAQs
- posters
- english, spanish, chinese

https://www.cdss.ca.gov/home/pandemic-ebt

Text message

Hello [**parent's name**]. This is an important message from [**school district name**].

We believe you may be eligible to get \$365 per child to help feed your family, in addition to any grab-n-go meals you may be getting.

Because schools are closed due to COVID-19, California is providing new food benefits called Pandemic EBT, or P-EBT.

You may receive a P-EBT card in the mail in the next few weeks, between May 8-22. Others will need to apply later this month.

Learn more at <u>ca.p-ebt.org/info</u>.

FAQs about Pandemic-EBT for Children & Families Served by Child Welfare Services

P-EBT and Provision Schools

1. How does P-EBT work for students attending schools that are providing meals through a Provision such as Community Eligibility Provision or Provision 2?

For the purposes of P-EBT, all students who attend a Provision school are considered eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.

If a student is directly certified, they do not need to apply for P-EBT and will automatically receive a P-EBT card in the mail. If a student is not directly certified and does not receive a P-EBT card in the mail by about May 22nd, they can apply for P-EBT online. The P-EBT online application opens on May 22nd at: ca.p-ebt.org

See question and answer #5 and #6 below for more information about children who apply or are directly certified for free or reduced-price school meals on or after March 16, 2020.

2. Our district operates Provision 2 for only one meal service. How will P-EBT eligibility be determined for these children?

Because all children in the district receive a free meal through Provision 2, for the purposes of P-EBT, all those children are considered eligible for free and reduced-price school meals and therefore eligible for P-EBT. If a student is directly certified they do not need to apply for P-EBT and will automatically receive a P-EBT card in the mail by about May 22nd. If a student is not directly certified and does not receive a P-EBT card in the mail by about May 22nd, they can apply for P-EBT online. The P-EBT online application opens on May 22nd at: <u>ca.p-ebt.org</u>

See question and answer #5 and #6 below for more information about children who apply or are directly certified for free or reduced-price school meals on or after March 16, 2020.

3. Will younger siblings of students attending a Provision school be eligible for P-EBT?

Only school aged children who attend a school that participates in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) or National School Lunch Program (NSLP) are eligible for P-EBT benefits.

Pandemic-EBT Info for Children & Families Served by Child Welfare Services

Due to the coronavirus pandemic emergency, children who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, including foster youth, will receive food benefits. These food benefits are called Pandemic EBT or 'P-EBT' benefits. P-EBT benefits help caregivers of foster youth buy food while schools are closed.

Important Information for Youth and Caregivers

- School-aged youth in foster care are automatically eligible for P-EBT benefits. Families
 with children who are in foster care do not need to apply or complete any forms,
 including those in Family Maintenance programs.
- P-EBT cards will be issued in the child's name and will be mailed to the caregiver, Foster Family Agency, group home or Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program address on file so that the card is available to the primary individual who cooks and makes food purchases on behalf of the child.
- P-EBT cards will arrive in the mail around May 12 through May 22, 2020
- Each eligible child will receive up to \$365 in P-EBT benefits one time.
- Students can pick up "to-go meals" from schools and get P-EBT benefits. They do not have to choose between one or the other.





Information continued on other side*

P-EBT questions?

chef brenda ruiz president sacramento food policy council **president@sacfoodpolicy.org**



resource updates

Food and Nutrition Service

Child Nutrition Program Meal Service During Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Best Practices for Parent Pick-Up of Meals and Snacks

It is a Federal requirement that Child Nutrition Program operators provide meals and snacks directly to eligible children. However, given the current health crisis, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) issued a nationwide waiver that allows local Program operators to distribute meals and snacks to parents and guardians to give to their eligible child. USDA does not have the legal authority to reimburse Program operators for meals provided to ineligible adults. Learn more: https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/covid-19/parents-and-guardians-waiver

State agencies are working with local Program operators to ensure that meals and snacks are distributed to parents or guardians of children eligible to participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, Summer Food Service Program, and Child and Adult Care Food Program. The nationwide waiver allowing parents to pick-up meals for children at non-congregate sites does not apply to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP). However, States may submit individual waivers to FNS requesting permission to allow parent pick-up under the FFVP.

Learn More https://www.fns.usda.gov/resource/covid-19-nationwidewaiver-allow-parents-and-guardians-pick-meals-children

Questions To Consider

- Would an alternative method of meal distribution meet needs while ensuring program integrity (e.g., mail delivery or bus delivery along regular bus routes)?
- What is the plan for ensuring meals go to eligible children?
- What is the strategy for preventing the distribution of duplicate meals (e.g., a person claiming the same meals from multiple sites)?



Meals picked up by mom and dad for kids

to eat and enjoy!



Providing Bulk Foods During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Questions and Answers for Child Nutrition Program Operators

For additional COVID-19 Guidance, please visit the School and Child and Adult Day Care Meals COVID-19 guidance web page at https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/schoolmeals.asp

Question 1-Can we provide multiple days' worth of meals at once to households?

Yes. Child Nutrition Program (CNP) Operators may provide eligible children or adults in day care with meals for up to one week at a time.

Question 2—Can we provide food in bulk (e.g., providing a gallon of milk instead of individual cartons)?

Yes. CNP Operators are permitted to provide components in a bulk "grocery-style" to assist with storage and other operational challenges. This may require additional math to calculate how much of a component is needed for a household. For example, for the milk component, if a household has 3 children picking up both breakfast and lunch meals for 5 days, calculate the number of half pints of milk needed (3 children x 2 meals x 5 days = 30 cups. A gallon of milk is equal to 16 pints, so 2 gallons is enough to meet the minimum requirement of 30 cups).

Question 3—What documentation should accompany the bag(s) of bulk food?

CNP Operators should provide each household with:



- A menu for each of the meals with a list of ingredients in each food (include any allergens).
- Directions indicating which items should be used for each meal and the planned serving sizes of each food.
- Instructions on storage and preparation in accordance with food safety principles. For guidance on food safety, reference the California Department of Education (CDE) fact sheet for handling food safely. Please go to Safe Food Handling Practices (PDF) at https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/documents/ foodsafetyfactsheet.pdf to download and view the fact sheet or contact your local environment health agency.
- · A discard date for food that is not consumed.

May 2020

webinars on tuesday, may 19

• academy of nutrition & dietetics

- opportunities & challenges in providing school meals in the wake of COVID-19
- featuring sandy curwood, liz campbell, and other state nutrition directors
- 10:30 a.m. pacific

• <u>no kid hungry</u>

- menu planning for non-congregate meals
- featuring lunchassist, miguel villarreal, and ICN
- 11:00 a.m. pacific

• california department of education

- thought partners: transitioning back to school and moving forward in meal service town hall meeting
- featuring gary petil, robert schramm, and other nutrition directors
- 2:00 p.m. pacific

policy "ask" template

http://www.farmtoschool.org/resourcesmain/local-policy-ask-template-in-resp onse-to-covid-19



Local Policy Ask Template in Response to COVID-19

National Farm to School Network is compiling local policy asks to create a **COVID-19 Local Response Template for advocates**. We have pulled together language from over 20 local organizations, and we are asking that more advocates and organizations continue to send us their ideas! This is a living document that focuses on more than farm to school because we understand that food justice is tied to the larger justice conversation. And it's important that we stand together on issues like workers' rights, access to healthcare, housing, and access to affordable healthy food.

Please feel free to pull ideas from this template, and make any changes needed, so that it addresses the needs of your community. If you have policy suggestions you would like us to consider adding to the list please reach out to our Krystal Oriadha, Senior Director of Programs and Policy, at krystal@farmtoschool.org.

Dear :

We, the undersigned non-profit organizations and unions, call on the ______government to adopt the following actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our organizations represent working families across the county and state and we are profoundly concerned for the families that are most vulnerable during this time. Workers across the county have put their lives on the line during this outbreak, risking their own health and safety to keep us healthy, care for and feed our children, keep health and other critical businesses clean, and much more. Our government has a responsibility to them and to all in our county and state to ensure that every possible effort is taken to keep them and their families safe.

Survey Report on COVID-19 Budget for School Food

School districts need flexible funding to stay open and continue providing essential meals to students.



leadership: a seat at the table

pull up a chair

- ask yourself,
 "what do I bring to the table?"
- 2. build authentic relationships with key decision makers
- 3. don't be afraid to share your voice



take a bite

- 1. align your "asks" with the long-term goal of the organization/district
- 2. know exactly what you are asking for avoid vague generalizations
- 3. paint a picture:
 - how you will use that funding
 - what is at risk without it

"success may depend on striking the right balance between confrontation and negotiation." - grantcraft.org

One Action: what is one thing you can do today?

discussion

thank you!