Community of Practice Call

COVID-19 Emergency Food Service
June 18, 2020

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Center for Ecoliteracy
California Food for California Kids
CALIFORNIA FOOD FOR CALIFORNIA KIDS®

California Food for California Kids is an initiative of the Center for Ecoliteracy
recap of last call

- school reopening guidance
- summer waivers
- waiver todo list
- heroes act
- farmers to families box
- new USDA tip sheets
- p-EBT outreach tools
- leadership corner: race & equity
agenda

- district spotlights
- funding/advocacy
- school reopening guidance
- policy updates
- resources
- leadership corner
- discussion

usda professional standards

2450, 3220, 3220, 3410, 4150
next call

join us next month!

9-10 a.m. PDT
school food innovators
california state advocacy update
CA legislature’s proposed budget

- **$112.2M** for “school meal reimbursements during summer and COVID closures” will be included in Senate and Assembly versions of the budget
- **$10M** for Farm to School and CDFA Office of Farm to Fork
The budget process involves several key dates:

- **June 15**: The Legislature passed the initial budget.
- **July 1**: The next fiscal year starts.
- **August 31**: The end of the legislative session.
join the advocacy efforts

- tweet at @CAGovernor to ask him to support school food
- contact me: abby@ecoliteracy.org
additional funding opportunities
nourishing neighbors summer meals grant

We actively seek out organizations that are working with the community and making an impact for our shoppers.

Our Foundation funds organizations that strengthen the neighborhoods we serve.

On a regional basis, we fund organizations that impact the lives of our employees and customers. To learn more about what we fund in your area, choose your neighborhood.

On a national basis, we fund only organizations working in the area of Childhood Hunger through our Hunger is Campaign. An RFP is released on an annual basis by invitation only. If you are interested in partnering with us to eradicate childhood hunger, please fill out an application below. These applications are considered throughout the year for invites to our annual RFP in the fall of each year.

If you are interested in participating in a checkstand campaign, outside of Childhood Hunger, these too are considered on a regional basis. The calendar is generally set for

due june 22
up to $100,000

https://albertsonscompaniesfoundation.versaic.com/login
National Farm to School Network is adapting our work during the COVID-19 pandemic to keep supporting the farm to school and farm to early care and education (ECE) community in this rapidly changing and challenging environment. As part of those efforts, we have created a COVID-19 Relief Fund to support the efforts of organizations that are helping kids and families continue eating, growing, and learning about just and sustainable food – and farmers continuing to produce and supply it – during this global pandemic.

Round two of our COVID-19 Relief Fund application is now open. Organizations that seek financial support of their efforts to connect kids and their families to just food through the support of local farmers and food systems are welcome to apply. In our commitment to standing in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and Native communities, where the coronavirus has had devastating impacts, organizations that directly serve and are led by Black people and Indigenous people will be prioritized in application review.

Questions about our COVID-19 Relief Fund application can be sent to RFA@farmtoschool.org.

Help Grow our COVID-19 Relief Fund
All gifts made to the National Farm to School Network at this time will go directly towards growing our COVID-19 Relief Fund and our COVID-19 response efforts. We are committed to ensuring our resources are reaching systematically underserved communities that are most in need. We deeply appreciate your donations, big and small, in helping us make the greatest impacts with these efforts.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSePG2NcXviukdcnwQlmd6-uy3hPu84qPiXYLyLdLPBJdqJS2A/viewform

due july 6
up to $10,000
California: Reimbursement during a disaster

Special funding for unanticipated school closures

- CA Ed Code section 49505
- Fixed costs for schools that have experienced unexpected closures
  - Schools closed during the entire closure; or
  - Schools closed for part of the closure
- Emergency feeding sites not eligible unless they were closed on certain dates. The dates they were closed are eligible.
- No guarantee - “contingent on available funds”
- Application deadline: asap or before August 20

https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sn/disaster.asp
policy updates
summer waivers

confirmed:
- non-congregate
- meal time flexibility
- parent meal pickup
- area eligibility 🎉
- meal pattern 🎉

expiring:
- FFVP funds
  - must spend by 6/30
  - may now serve at alternate sites (contact state agency for approval)
- supper/snack enrichment
  - expires 6/30 😭
SY 20-21 waivers

confirmed:
- USDA foods entitlement 🎉
  - SY 18-19 used for SY 20-21

desired:
- universal feeding
- extend all existing SSO/SFSP
- create new waivers for NSLP/SBP
- others?
advocacy

reach out to your senators especially those on this committee

https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/about/membership
planning for sy 20-21

toolkit coming soon!
reopening schools
California Department of Public Health

COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Schools and School-Based Programs

- Promoting healthy hygiene habits
- Cleaning, disinfection, ventilation
- Implementing social distancing in & out of classrooms
- Education for staff & families
- Planning for when a staff member or student gets sick
CDE’s overall safety recommendations
- instructional scheduling models
- curriculum, expanded learning, social emotional health
- early childhood education
- school food service; assumes a blended learning model with possible transition to other scenarios throughout the year
COVID-19 THOUGHT STARTERS
ON REOPENING SCHOOLS FOR SY2020-21

Claiming a Seat at the Table

Make sure your concerns are heard before decisions are made.

Effective and ongoing communication is a critical component to reopening schools in a safe, controlled manner. School nutrition operators must claim a seat at the table with other key school stakeholders to be part of the discussion on feasible models for foodservice during SY2020-21. "We are the experts in our field," exclaims Donette Worthy, SNS, Director of Child Nutrition, Tuscaloosa County (Ala.) School System. "As the experts, we have to make sure we are voicing what needs to happen."

Unfortunately, this kind of inclusivity is simply not a part of the administrative culture in many school districts. Too often, school nutrition experts are not consulted, but merely informed. This short-sighted approach is fraught with problems that inevitably fall on your shoulders to resolve. This is why you shouldn’t simply shrug your shoulders in resignation or voice your frustrations only on social media. Don’t wait in vain for an invitation that may never come. While it’s advisable to walk a careful tightrope between self-advocacy and alienating powerful decision-makers, there are proactive steps you can take to being heard.

You never know when an informal opportunity may arise to ensure school meal considerations are taken into account. Keep an outline of key talking points or facts on a notes app on your smartphone or write down some questions or concerns that you fear will be
## Example Instructional Scheduling Models

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Two Day Rotations</strong></td>
<td>Meals on-site + take-home meals for the next day(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A/B Alternating Weeks</strong></td>
<td>Meals on-site + curbside pick up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AM/PM Staggered Schedule</strong></td>
<td>AM - breakfast &amp; lunch on-site, PM - lunch &amp; snack on-site + take-home meals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Full-Time In-Person</strong></td>
<td>Meals on site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Distance Learning Only</strong></td>
<td>Curbside pick up + home delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tell Us About Your District!</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
engage your stakeholders

- principals, teachers, food service staff
- school nurses & classified support staff
- students & parents
- school board, building & education administrators, business office
resources
REOPENING CONSIDERATIONS CHECKLIST

How to Use This Tool: Download this checklist and keep it handy as you work through all of the considerations for reopening your meal service program. Pick and choose what will work best for you and your district! Continue to consult with your state agency and local health authority.

SERVICE MODELS & AREAS
- Bus routes
- Cafeterias / MPR / gyms
- Classroom
- Currucsid
- Drive-thru
- Food truck
- Grab & go
- Home delivery
- Kiosk
- Other authorized meal sites (public libraries, parks, community centers)
- Outdoor
- Shorter, more frequent meal periods
- Weekend & holiday meals
- *Have a backup plan: what if the kitchen/school shuts down?*

SCHEDULING
- Extra time for meal assembly
- Extra time for meal distribution
- Extra time for meal prep
- Extra time for sanitation
- Extra time to deliver meals
- Highrisk staff that might be omitted
- High risk staff that might need alternative tasks
- Staff that may be unable to work due to other reasons (illness/child care)

STAFFING
- Cross-training (train on essential duties in case of key absences)
- Dietetic interns
- Health check-ins
- More staff may be needed
- Multiple work teams
- Promote employee wellness
- Recruit other school employees
- Recruit unemployed restaurant workers
- Training - Back to School
- Training - COVID-19 protocols
- Update list of staff available for in-person, remote, and on-call work
- Update sick policy, if applicable
- Volunteers

MEAL SERVICE
- Hand sanitizer available at meal service
- Individually wrapped condiments
- More trash cans
- Pause salad bars for now
- Pause self-service buffets for now
- Pause share tables for now
- Physical barriers
- Sanitize between meal times
- Smaller groups of students
- Social distancing at tables
- Staggered meal times
- Use tape to mark & line
- Use tape to mark & line for students

FOOD PREPARATION
- Adjust shifts to minimize number of staff in the kitchen at one time
- UPE & sanitation products easily accessible throughout kitchen
- Social distance workflow
- Use tape to mark & line for work stations
- Wrapping/containers for cold items
- Wrapping/containers for hot items

ACCOUNTABILITY
- Adopt BCB procedures for lunch
- Adopt BCB procedures for take-home
- Apply for CEP
- Download Waiver To Do List
- Maintain MPR & daily meal counts
- Procedures to count reimbursable meals (roster, checklist, portable electronics) regardless of where they were served
- Receipt of written consent from family for home delivery of meals
- Training and oversight for teachers or alternative staff who may be newly responsible for meal counts
- Alternative tasks

MENUS
- 1-2 Entrees per day
- 1-2 Cycle
- Bento box-style meals
- Continue to offer culturally relevant and vegetarian options when possible
- Limit & a la carte
- Plan for special diets
- Promote Farm to School
- Serve student favorites
- Utilize USDA and surplus foods

STAFFING
- Promote student favorites
- Utilize USDA and surplus foods

FOOD
- Collaborate with distributors regarding availability
- Connect with local suppliers
- Maintain inventory of shelf-stable food
- Modify annual bid items
- Modify annual bid quantities
- Plan for increased food waste

EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES
- Clear plastic counter shields
- Disposable aprons
- Disposable disinfectant wipes
- Disposable gloves
- Disposable trays
- Disposable utensils
- Face coverings

COMMUNICATIONS
- Custodial - extra trash cans
- Families - meal applications
- Families - meal service options
- Families - Special Diet protocols
- Students - meal service options
- Teachers & Staff - meal service options
- Barricades
- Email
- E-Newsletters
- Media releases
- Print materials
- Robocalls
- School marques
- Social media
- Text messages
- Website

*Food packaging supplies
*Hand sanitizer
*Hand soap
*Hands-free water bottle fill stations
*Insulated bags
*Items for self-packaging
*Masking tape
*Meal bags/baskets
*Meal count solutions for meals in classroom
*Mobile serving carts
*Mobile warmers & coolers
*Paper towels
*Physical barriers
*Portables
*Portable POS
*Promote prepaid meal and update meal charge policy
*Reusable water bottles for staff
*Social distancing decals
*Stickers to designate special diets
*Surface sanitizer
*Thermometers
*Tissues
*Transport boxes/bags
*Utility carts and wagons
*Water solutions for students

*LunchAssist*
Fact Sheet for Summer Meals

**Calling all Districts: USDA Summer Meals Can Keep Kids Healthy**

Despite COVID-19 school closures, California schools can continue to serve meals over the summer with support from USDA’s extension of waiver flexibility. This resource will help you get started and provide tips for running successful and sustainable programs.

**The Critical Importance of School Meals This Summer**

With unprecedented levels of unemployment, higher taxes at any time, and the Great Depression, hunger is likely to look very different in your neighborhoods. Families whose children never before needed them and reduced price school meals will need free, healthy food this summer.

**How to Operate When School is Closed**

All schools may be approved to operate under the USDA’s Summer Nutrition Option (SNO). Schools that have been approved to operate the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) during the previous two years may select this option. To operate this program, submit a request to SFSP@fns.usda.gov. Refer to COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools, from California Department of Education (CDE) for complete and updated information on how to provide school meals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Who is Eligible for Meals?**

Under the SFSP and USDA, any child 18 years or younger (and students of any age who are disabled) may receive meals. USDA’s flexibility during COVID-19 makes it easier for children and families to access meals.

**What Meals or Food Assistance Can Be Offered?**

With DOE approval, meals may be provided every day including weekends, holidays and previously scheduled non-instructional days.

Schools can apply to provide meals all summer long, regardless of whether summer activities or programs would have been in place. Meals may be offered daily or for multiple days up to one week at a time. Allowable meals include up to three meals per day for two meals and one snack. Food items may be offered in bulk, such as grains, beans, fruit or vegetable platters.

School sites that are eligible for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) and CFAP at-risk afterschool meals may continue to offer programs during school closure, up to June 30, 2020. For more information, visit the CDE website for the summer Child Nutrition Program (SNAP) website.

**California Heroes**

California school districts are stepping up to provide school meals after closures due to COVID-19, and they play an indispensable role in keeping children and families healthy. We can apply the lessons learned from March to set up school summer programs that serve California children and families during a time when it’s needed most.

CDE urges all LEAs to take steps to ensure that these opportunities are available to all students, especially disadvantaged students.

**Innovation & Success – Tips from Districts around California**

**Staff Safety and Well-being**

- Create safety protocols and train staff on the protocol
- Proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Workplace safety in food prep and cooking
- No contact handling of products, walk-up stations, and delivery sites
- Consider staffing strategies such as staggered or alternating shifts or desegregated teams
- Make time for checks and recognition to build trust and cohesiveness with your team

**Food Supply and Meal Provision**

- Increase public and private donations
- Increase labor
- Purchase food and beverages

School districts are encouraged to purchase food and beverages through USDA’s Food Distribution Program.

**Find out more here:**

For more information on how to provide school meals during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit the CDE website for the summer Child Nutrition Program (SNAP) website.

**Version 6/1/2020 – California**

This fact sheet is dedicated to school and meals everywhere!
Register for Upcoming CEP Webinars

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) provides school meals to students at no cost to them. Are you considering adopting or expanding CEP this school year? Newly eligible and want to learn more? Register for No Kid Hungry’s upcoming webinars to learn more about how to make CEP work for your team and your students this year.

CA-specific CEP webinar
Thursday, June 18 at 2PM PT
Register!

National CEP webinar
Tuesday, June 30 at 11AM PT
Register!
Meals Count is a free tool to help school districts optimize their USDA CEP Application, to get more reimbursements for school meals, and help fight child hunger.

Maximize your CEP Funding with Meals Count

Meals Count is a free tool to help school districts optimize their USDA CEP Application, to get more reimbursements for school meals, and help fight child hunger.

SAVE THE DATE
Live Demo
June 22nd
3pm

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/715559866?pwd=OHBCQUJwM2xpRzNHc0dObFh1UWNGdz09
Password: 610106
Taking a Fresh Look at the Community Eligibility Provision during COVID-19

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a no-cost enrollment option that allows schools in high-poverty areas to serve a universal free breakfast and lunch to all CEP eligible students.

1. Reduce administrative burden for schools by eliminating the need to collect and process household free and reduced-price meal applications.
2. Increase meal participation rates by removing stigma.

Individual schools, districts, or entire districts are eligible for CEP if they meet the following criteria:
- At least 60% of students are eligible for free meals
- At least 40% of students are eligible for reduced-price meals

Take action to adopt CEP
Due to COVID-19, ISAs at schools across the country are expected to increase, making more schools and districts eligible for CEP. Check with your state or local agency to learn how CEP can benefit your school in your district. Schools in your district might be eligible for CEP, or your reimbursement rates may have increased, making CEP financially favorable. If your district is already participating in CEP, you may also be able to receive a new four-year CEP cash and lock in a higher reimbursement level. The USDA has extended the deadline to opt into CEP until August 31, 2020.

CEP benefits students, schools, and their communities by:
- Improving meal service operations. Many cafeteria managers report less line time and no changes in wasted food. Estimates suggest that, on average, CEP schools save $14 per student, each year due to increased federal reimbursement and decreased per meal production costs.
- Feeding more students. Reports show that average daily participation increased between 4 and 30 percentage points and the average daily participation in lunch increased between 6 and 13 percentage points in CEP-participating schools.
- Reducing stigma. California managers report that students no longer have to declare stigma or address concerns about the school meals or the school meals program.

Best practices for implementation - Directly-linked meals. Groups of schools or entire districts can opt into CEP together if their aggregate ISP is 60% or greater. Directly-linked CEP can take advantage of economies of scale and savings in administrative overhead through district-wide adoption. If you are unable to afford CEP district-wide, consider adopting CEP in blended schools (i.e., offering CEP in a K-8 elementary school and in the middle school into which that elementary school feeds) to avoid confusion among parents.
- Experiment with innovative approaches to increase meal participation. Try new strategies to increase participation rates. For example, add students to alternative delivery models like grab-and-go meals.

For more information, contact your state or local agency to learn whether your district is eligible for CEP. For more information, contact your state or local agency to learn whether your district is eligible for CEP. For more information, contact your state or local agency to learn whether your district is eligible for CEP. For more information, contact your state or local agency to learn whether your district is eligible for CEP.
solidarity, allyship and change w/the school nutrition dietitian

listen to the recording:
https://youtu.be/dTInnp7YkaY8
leadership
leading through anxiety

inspiring others when you’re struggling yourself
managing anxiety

1. acknowledgement + acceptance
   - label what you’re feeling
   - probable vs. possible

2. take action
   - schedules + to-do lists
   - break down large projects into series of small tasks
   - develop techniques for what you can’t control

3. limit the impact on your leadership
   - make good decisions
   - practice healthy communication

Ultimately, anxiety comes with the job of being a leader. The process of managing it can make you stronger, more empathetic, and more effective. It just might be bumpy along the way.

Morra Aarons-Mele
Harvard Business Review
discussion