Community of Practice Call

COVID-19 Emergency Food Service
March 4, 2021

Jen McNeil
Founder
LunchAssist

Mickinzie Lopez
Administrative Dietitian
LunchAssist

Krysta Williams
Program Manager
Center for Ecoliteracy
CALIFORNIA FOOD FOR CALIFORNIA KIDS®

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

SY 20-21 Professional Development and The Collective
agenda

- district spotlights
- funding + policy
- reopening + safety
- plant-forward meal kits
- grants, events, + resources
- leadership
- discussion

usda professional standards

1110, 1130, 2430, 3240, 3450, 4130,

1 hour of professional development
SY 20-21 call schedule

April 1

join us...

9:00-10:15 a.m. PST / 12:00-1:15 p.m. EST
district spotlights
Harvest of the Month VIRTUAL Tasting

Since we can’t bring taste tests to our students in the school cafeterias, we’re doing them VIRTUALLY. We’ll talk about the benefits of this month’s special fruit, the local farmers who grow it, and an at-home activity or recipe!

Grab a golden kiwi from your nearest meal site on Wednesday, then, TUNE IN on Wednesday, Jan 20 at 2:30pm. We’ll be on Facebook LIVE or Zoom (Meeting ID: 987 2797 3870)

san diego , ca
san diego, ca
policy + funding
waiver updates | national

urge congress to:

- make school meals free for all students
- give school nutrition operators $$ to continue feeding kids
- extend increased assistance benefits

https://p2a.co/MiBanGs
waiver updates | cacfp

- **USDA Q&A #4** - January 6, 2021
  - **at-risk after school meals**: allowed states to issue flexibility so sponsors did not have to take attendance or keep sign-in sheets

- **California Update** - February 18, 2021
  - **flexibility finally granted!**
    - **open sites**: enrollment rosters may be used in lieu of attendance 🎉
    - **closed sites**: attendance/sign-in sheets still required *(no change)*
policy reminders | CEP

- community eligibility provision
  - **April 1**: extract data
  - **April-June**: determine ISP
  - **June 30**: deadline to apply
“federal regulations allow [us to] use a non-competitive proposal to negotiate one-year contracts... given the public health emergency”

3 easy steps:

1. specify the goods or services needed
2. request pricing from at least one vendor
3. enter into a new, one-year contract (ie: july 1, 2021 - june 30, 2022)

references:

- Waiver #71 - January 6 (extension)
- Q&A SP-21, see Q #5
emergency operational costs reimbursement program

additional federal reimbursement for March-June 2020
(55% of the difference between 2019 and 2020 revenue)

Can you show me an example?
April 2020 payment = (April 2019 reimb. - April 2020 reimb.) x 0.55

More info:
USDA policy memo SP 06-2021 + Q&A
released January 26, 2021
funding updates | national

in FY 2020, reimbursement dropped by $1.4 B
funding updates | national

during mar-sept 2020, reimbursement dropped by $1.6 B
policy updates | CA

- 2019 vs. 2020
- CA meal participation drops 30%
policy updates | CA

CA summer meal participation

*still have one month to submit claims; **still have two months to submit claims
REPORT: COVID-19 Increases School Meal Budget Deficits in California

Schools Face Increased Costs, Lower Revenues

When schools physically closed in March 2020, school nutrition professionals rose to the challenge of feeding millions of students in a time of massive economic odds. However, providing emergency school meal services has increased costs and curtailed revenues at a time when revenue lines were dropped—causing budget deficits that could amount to severalfold a billion-dollar challenge. A recent survey of school food service directors revealed that without additional funding, they will be forced to cut school districts' general funds, setting off a cascade of deficits.

SCHOOL NUTRITION BUDGET DEFICITS WILL BE WORSE IN 2021

The Center for Equitability and the School Nutrition Association surveyed more than 348 school districts across California in the fall of 2020. Findings from these surveys show that budget deficits for school nutrition programs are worsening.

THE FACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019-2020 School Year (Last Year)</th>
<th>2020-2021 School Year (This Year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School districts reporting or projecting a net loss</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School districts with a net loss that have enough reserves to cover the loss</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated statewide deficit</td>
<td>-$355 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: Current relief funding will not cover these deficits. The $112 million state relief funding expires in August 2020, giving little to ease the deficits in the 2020-21 school year. Federal funding relief is restricted to March-June 2020, with no funding currently available for the 2020-21 school year.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: Food Service Directors Speak to the Importance of Additional Relief Funding

Supporting Communities, Preventing Hunger

"If our budget collapses, as will our department, the community is very low on hope and relies on school meals. If our department is cut, the quality of school meals will suffer and so will the children who rely on them."

Protecting School Budgets

"If funding has to be directed from the General Fund to Food Service — jobs, academic enrichment programs, and other community services supported by the General Fund will be lost."

Keeping Frontline Staff Employed

"Additional funding to make up what would have been levies next year for the school nutrition employees who survived through this entire crisis and worked with the public. Please take care of them."

REFERENCES

Funding about the percentage of school districts reporting net losses and whether these reserves would be enough to cover these losses are California-specific data estimates from the School Nutrition Association, School Nutrition Association.

Key findings on estimated statewide budget deficits are from The Center for Equitability's survey: Available here.
policy updates | CA

- CDFA farm to school incubator grant
  - $10M for F2S in Jan. budget
  - program extended 1 year
“School meals for all” bill introduced in CA
plant-forward meal kits
4 tips for implementing a plant-forward menu

from

Erin Primer
plant-forward

tip #1

“Food should be delicious, whether it has meat or not.”
plant-forward

**tip #2**

“Use taste-focused labels.”
plant-forward

tip #3

“Share what you’re doing with the families you serve.”

**Menu 1/12-1/15**

Tuesday: **Monterey chicken sandwich, green bean salad, turkey/egg/cheese breakfast sandwich**

Wednesday: **cheesy chicken+broccoli bake, CA spinach+cranberry salad, buttery maple Snack’n waffle**

Thursday: chicken hot dog, **tajin corn, Dave’s muffin & yogurt cup**

Friday: pizza, **zesty chickpeas, overnight oats**

all meals served with fresh CA fruit and optional milk. **made from scratch in our central kitchen in Seaside**
plant-forward

tip #4

“Start with one thing.”
chef ann foundation

plant-based recipes + videos

- portobello fajitas
- broccoli pesto
- butternut soup
coming soon!

- plant-forward virtual culinary professional development
D.o.D. organic

coming soon!

- organic apples
- organic pears
Happy Earth Day
reopening + safety updates
vaccine updates | national

March is school and child care staff COVID-19 vaccination month
vaccine updates | CA

- school nutrition staff are now eligible!
- how to I sign up?
  - check with your school district to determine when & where to access your vaccine
- vaccine roll out varies by county/district
miguel cadrona, new US secretary of education

5 point plan for safe reopening:

1. host a national summit on safe reopening
2. share best practices
3. update the COVID-19 handbook for educators
4. track progress through a national survey
5. funding: $130 B
reopening updates | CA

california schools must reopen by april 1

• students must be back to in-person learning:
  ○ homeless and foster youth
  ○ english learners
  ○ chronically absent students
  ○ students without access to the internet
  ○ students with disabilities
  ○ grades K-2

• $2 B in incentives + $4.6 B in additional funding
reopening considerations

- feed children:
  - learning in-person
  - learning online
  - who are part of the community*

*if operating an open site
sample meal service plan

scenario 1:

- students on-campus 5 days per week for half-days (8 am - noon)
- distance learners and the community also need meals

solution:

- during in-person learning, students receive meals on campus
- weekend meals sent home with in-person learners on fridays
- distance learners/community pick up 7-day meal kit
- no more than 7-days worth of meals are served each week
sample meal service plan

scenario 2:

- students on-campus 2 days per week for full days (A/B cohorts)
- distance learners and the community also need meals

solution:

- during in-person learning, students receive meals on campus
- all children eligible to pick up a 5-day meal kit
- no more than 7-days worth of meals are served each week
program integrity

- **remember**: does not need to be 100% “bullet-proof”.
- make a *reasonable* effort to prevent duplicate meals
  - signage
  - flow of service lines
  - verbal reminders
  - staff training
- **sample template** provided in Tools + Resources, coming up next!
Neha Cramer, MPH
Brianna Dumas, MPH, RDN, LD

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
resources · events · grants
CDC resources

Safely Distributing School Meals during COVID-19

- ★ NEW! Meals Eaten at School (In-Person Learning)
  - Meals in the Classroom
  - Meals in the Cafeteria

- Meals Eaten Away from School (Virtual/Hybrid)
  - Drive-Through or Walk-Up Models
  - Delivery Models
    - Home Delivery
    - Mobile Route Delivery
    - Bus Route Delivery

- ★ NEW! Checklist for School Nutrition Professionals
  Serving Meals Eaten at School
served

digizine

the policy pulse with LunchAssist

new article!
program integrity plan

**PRO Tip:** Download and edit this document to best fit your district's needs and file it away for your next audit. Reminder - you do not need to submit it to the State at this time. Just make sure to file it somewhere where your staff can easily access and review it!
cafeteria team checklist

- daily team questions
- daily meal prep tasks
- daily meal service tasks

PRO Tip: Download and edit this document to best fit your district’s needs. Designate one staff member at each site to complete this checklist daily. Have them save the checklists in a binder for periodic review. Remember to check these occasionally and provide guidance if the checklists are incomplete!
HACCP plan supplement

- hand washing & sanitizing
- employee health & hygiene
- glove & mask use
- home delivered meals
- food safety
- allergens
- and more!

**PRO Tip:** Download and edit this document to best fit your district’s needs and file it away for your next audit. Reminder - make sure to file it somewhere where your staff can easily access and review it!
CACFP | 2021 national conference

- virtual
- april 19-23
- registration rates & deadlines
  - **standard registration:** march 1-31
    - $169 member | $299 non-member
  - **late registration:** april 1-15
    - $199 member | $349 non-member
culinary institute of america | global plant forward culinary summit

mar. 30-apr 1.
CDFa | CA F2S network conference

Mar. 10-12

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

March 10 - 12, 2021

Wednesday - Friday

9 AM to 1 PM

Space is limited!
national nutrition month

2021 weekly key messaging

- **week 1**: eat a variety of nutritious foods every day
- **week 2**: plan your meals each week
- **week 3**: learn skills to create tasty meals
- **week 4**: consult a registered dietitian nutritionist

additional resources:

- NNM campaign toolkit
- 40 ideas to get involved in NNM
grants | national

- whole kids foundation: garden grant
  - k-12 schools or nonprofits that serve k-12 students
  - awards: $3,000 edible education gardens
  - application due march 31
grants | CA

- CDE: FFVP
  - july 1, 2021 - june 30, 2022
  - eligible elementary schools
  - use enrollment data from oct. 2019
  - application due march 5th
leadership
WHEN IS IT GOING TO STOP?
leading through COVID-fatigue

1. empathy
   - “Requires stepping outside of your own needs, assessing and removing bias and privilege, actively listening to people, and then taking action.” - HBR

2. building psychological stamina
leading with empathy

● examples
  ○ human moments remind people they're not alone
  ○ positive reinforcement of personal contributions and human qualities may provide a sense of stability
  ○ analyze voiced issues and address priorities
  ○ reinforce self-care
  ○ schedule “thinking time” at work
  ○ energize your team... regularly

● respond to...
  ○ cynicism with progress & achievement
  ○ unpredictability with stability
discussion