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## Latest Updates Regarding COVID-19 & Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs

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### Nationwide Waivers Extended for Non-Congregate Meal Distribution

USDA has [extended](#) several nationwide waivers to allow continued non-congregate meal distribution through the summer meal programs and the Child and Adult Care Food Program. The following flexibilities are extended through August 31, 2020:

- **Non-Congregate Feeding**, allowing meals to be served to children outside of the normally-required group setting to align with social distancing (e.g., "grab and go" meal distribution or delivery).
- **Parent Pickup**, allowing distribution of meals to a parent or guardian to take home to their children.
- **Meal Times**, waiving requirements that meals be served within certain time frames; this flexibility allows for multiple days-worth of meals to be provided at once.

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### New Deadline to Apply for the Community Eligibility Provision

The deadline for schools to adopt the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) in the 2020-21 school year has been extended to **August 31st**. The New York State Education Department is now accepting applications from schools and has posted the [memo](#) explaining the application submission process.

USDA issued a nationwide waiver extending CEP deadlines due to the COVID-19

public health crisis. The two key changes for schools newly adopting or recertifying for CEP for the 2020-21 school year include:

- Applications must be submitted by August 31, 2020 (typically June 30th)
- Eligibility for CEP can be based on enrollment from any time between April 1st – June 30, 2020 and 2019-20 direct certification data (typically only April 1st enrollment is used).

A full description of these deadline extensions can be found in the School Meals section of our [COVID-19 webpage](#). Learn more about CEP from our CEP [webpage](#). For assistance, please contact [Jessica.PinoGoodspeed@HungerSolutionsNY.org](mailto:Jessica.PinoGoodspeed@HungerSolutionsNY.org)

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## **HEROES Act Helps People Meet Basic Needs and Boosts the Economy**

On May 15, the House passed the [Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions \(HEROES\) Act](#). Overall, the package includes a number of critical provisions to help people meet basic needs and boost the economy. The bill now moves to the Senate.

The comprehensive package will go a long way to both stabilize the economy and provide direct assistance to individuals and families through proven programs. The bill provides significant relief for struggling individuals and families, including our anti-hunger community's three key SNAP priorities:

- Boost SNAP maximum benefits by 15 percent (provision expires September 30, 2021),
- Increase minimum monthly SNAP benefit from \$16 to \$30, and
- Suspend certain SNAP administrative rules that would terminate or weaken benefits.

For details on the nutrition provisions of the bill see the [Food Research and Action Center \(FRAC\) analysis](#).

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities released a blog this week—[Heroes Act Provides Much-Needed SNAP Boost](#).

For the latest update on [SNAP COVID 19 policies around employment requirements](#) see our COVID-19 web page.

**Read full updates on our COVID-19 Webpage**

We will continue to send email updates, post updates to our website, and use Facebook and Twitter to share information. Thank you for your continued efforts to help New Yorkers with needed access to food during this time.

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