



HUNGER SOLUTIONS NEW YORK

UNITING POLICIES AND
PROGRAMS TO END HUNGER

Child Nutrition News

Thank You, Summer Meal Sponsors, Sites & Partners!

We are beyond grateful for the many sponsoring organizations, sites, and community partners working tirelessly to alleviate summertime child hunger amid COVID-19. We give special thanks to sponsors and sites continuing to serve meals in these last weeks of summer; as we note in our [recent report](#), access to summer meals often drops off after mid-August. Serving meals all summer long is an invaluable service, this year more than ever.

Visit SummerMealsNY.org for resources to continue promoting this year's sites, and to help grow summer meals in 2021 and beyond.



Summer Meal Program Waivers Extended Through the Start of the School Year

USDA extended several waivers allowing continued non-congregate meal distribution until the start of the 2020-2021 school year, or September 30, 2020, whichever is earlier. The waivers, which previously expired August 31, 2020, include:

- [Non-congregate feeding](#), allowing meals to be served to children outside of the normally-required group setting (e.g., grab-and-go or home-delivered meals).
- [Parent pickup](#), allowing distribution of meals to a parent or guardian to take home to their child(ren).

- [Area eligibility](#), allowing sponsors to operate sites in locations that do not meet area eligibility requirements.
- [Meal pattern flexibility](#), on a case-by-case basis.

We continue to urge USDA to allow use of the summer meal programs through the 2020-2021 school year, and to grant additional flexibilities needed to provide meals safely and equitably. Thank you to the many partners who advocated for those changes in the recent [national sign-on letter](#) to USDA.

Last Chance for Schools to Provide Free Meals to All Students

The deadline to [apply](#) for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is quickly approaching! CEP is a federal reimbursement option that allows schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students. **The deadline to elect CEP for the 2020-21 school year is August 31, 2020.**

What You Need to Know About CEP

Promising emerging evidence shows CEP benefits students, schools, and their communities, especially during COVID-19. Offering school meals that are free to all students provides critical support to low-income families. For school districts, community eligibility simplifies program operations, provides a steady stream of federal revenue to school districts, and eliminates the need to collect unpaid meal fees.

- Learn how CEP can support students and families while also supporting schools during this global pandemic from Johns Hopkins' latest [resource](#).

As schools consider possible options for school meal service and the projected financial impacts, it is possible that the recent increase in ISPs is enough to make CEP financially beneficial.

- Calculate expected annual reimbursement using FRAC's [CEP Financial Calculators](#) and use the new [Meals Count](#) tool to see how different grouping scenarios can maximize both federal reimbursement and the number of schools and students participating in CEP. (Watch this [tutorial](#) on how to use it.)

Have Questions about CEP?

Watch the [replay](#) of our CEP Virtual Roundtable Discussion with our partners at No Kid Hungry New York. We were joined by special guests Jennifer Knapp from the NY State Education Department and Caitlin Lazarski, School Nutrition Director of Newburgh Enlarged City School District.

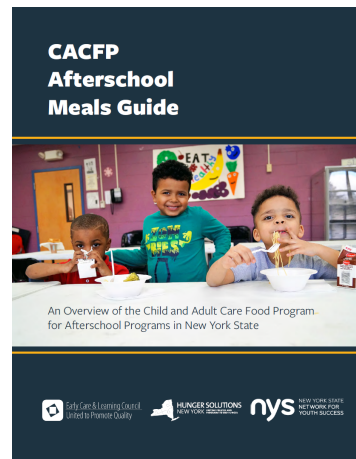
We're here for you. Learn more by visiting our [website](#), or send us an email for individualized assistance at Jessica.PinoGoodspeed@HungerSolutionsNY.org.

Higher Reimbursement Rates for Afterschool & Childcare Meals

USDA released [updated reimbursement rates](#) for the [Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) (CACFP). The updated rates, effective July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021, include increased reimbursement for most meal types served in participating childcare centers, daycare homes, and afterschool programs.

CACFP's At-Risk Afterschool Snack/Supper component will now reimburse eligible programs **\$3.51 per meal** and **\$.96 per snack** served, not including cash-in-lieu of commodities. For example, a program serving afterschool snacks and suppers to 50 students 20 days each month could be reimbursed up to \$4,470 monthly.

More schools and programs may become eligible to serve afterschool meals in the coming school year, given increased participation in SNAP and free/reduced-price school meals. CACFP's At-Risk Afterschool Snack/Supper component is available to programs located within the enrollment area of a school where 50% or more of the students qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. Visit AfterschoolMealsNY.org and our [CACFP Afterschool Meals Guide](#) to learn more, or [contact us](#) for one-on-one assistance.



Connect New Families with WIC

WIC helps dads, too.

Superheroes
included.



The years leading up to kindergarten are the most crucial for brain development, yet many New York State toddlers and preschoolers lack consistent access to the healthy foods needed to feed their growing minds. Many community based partners can help connect pregnant women, new moms, infants and children under age 5 with the [New York State WIC program](#). WIC can help moms, dads and other caregivers give children the best nutrition possible.

Statewide, the NYS Department of Health estimates that **WIC is reaching less than one-half of potentially eligible New Yorkers.**

Help your community learn more about WIC; the eWIC card and the WIC2Go app has made shopping with WIC even easier. Currently through September 30, many offices are able to help by phone; some are offering on-site appointments. Visit the following website for outreach resources to help families connect with this valuable support:

- [WIC Help NY Resource Center](#) – including new materials in Spanish

In Case You Missed It:

NYS SFSP Status Report

Our [new report](#) details county-level and statewide Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) participation in 2019, finding that while 380 sponsors served meals at

nearly 3,000 sites across the state, only 1 in 4 of New York's low-income children ate summer lunch through SFSP. Please share this report with your networks and visit SummerMealsNY.org to learn how you can help increase access to summer meals.



FRAC Summer Nutrition Status Reports

[Food Research and Action Center](#) released their [annual reports](#) analyzing national and state-level summer meals participation in 2019. Nationally, summer nutrition programs reached only 1 child for every 7 low-income children who ate school lunch just a few months prior. While New York remains among states with the strongest participation in summer breakfast and lunch, fewer than 1 in 3 of our state's low-income children ate summer meals through either the SFSP or the National School Lunch Program's Seamless Summer Option in July 2019.

Webinar Recording: Food Access Amid COVID-19: Pandemic-EBT and Other Federal Nutrition Programs

View the [recording](#) and [slide deck](#) from our recent webinar for an overview of the new Pandemic-EBT program, which provides \$420 in food benefits to 2.1 million New York children who qualified for free or reduced-price school meals at the time of the 2020-2021 school closures. Learn about the basics of Pandemic-EBT, resources to help families understand and use their benefits, and opportunities to connect families with additional federal nutrition programs to alleviate hunger amid COVID-19. For more information about Pandemic-EBT and to access resources to help inform families, visit HungerSolutionsNY.org/PEBT.

Read Additional Updates on Our COVID-19 Webpage

We will continue to send email updates, post updates to our website, and share information on social media. You are always welcomed to share posts from our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Instagram](#) pages. Thank you for your continued efforts to help New Yorkers with needed access to food during this time.



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