



**HUNGER SOLUTIONS**  
NEW YORK UNITING POLICIES AND  
PROGRAMS TO END HUNGER

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## **USDA Extends Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Deadlines for 2021-2022 School Year**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has extended CEP deadlines for the 2021-2022 school year through a [nationwide waiver](#) that gives states and school districts more time to consider community eligibility. The waiver makes the following adjustments to annual CEP deadlines:

<b>CEP Requirement</b>	<b>Annual Deadline</b>	<b>Waiver Deadline</b>
Data Used to Calculate ISP	April 1	Anytime between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021
LEA Notification	April 15	June 30, 2021
State Agency Notification	April 15	June 30, 2021
State Agency Publication	May 1	June 30, 2021
Elect CEP for SY 2021-2022	June 30	September 30, 2021

[CEP](#) offers districts and schools the opportunity to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students. As schools continue to respond to dramatic spikes in childhood hunger driven by the pandemic, CEP can provide the tools they need to reduce hunger, improve nutrition, and support academic success.

Learn more about applying for CEP in New York State from the [CEP memo](#) from the New York State Education Department.

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## **CEP Coffee Chat: Making School Meals Free for All Beyond COVID-19**

**Join our Upcoming Virtual Coffee Chat**  
***Tuesday, April 13th 10-11am***

Join us for an open discussion about taking a fresh look at the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) to continue to provide free meals to all students in the 2021-2022 school year.



With the extension of CEP deadlines for the upcoming school year, schools have more time to newly adopt or recertify for CEP. This will be a discussion for school nutrition directors to learn about what steps they can take to make CEP a viable option for their districts. With rising rates of child hunger and school meal programs struggling with low participation, CEP may be a helpful tool for recovery amid COVID-19 for both families and school nutrition programs.

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