



## **Feeding Children in the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) during the National Public Health Emergency:**

### **What are Your Options?**

Did your childcare site or after school enrichment program participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLSP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and/or the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) but recently closed due to Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-21? Are you interested in serving meals to your participants currently not in your care due to the closure? The MDE CACFP is here to help you find the best way to meet the nutrition needs of your participants during this public health emergency!

### **United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) Waivers**

The USDA has released a series of waivers to enable child nutrition program operators' flexibility to meet the needs of their participants during the nation's public health emergency. The waivers apply to all States. The waivers are effective immediately, and remain in effect through June 30, 2020, or upon expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier. Waivers can be found on the USDA Food Nutrition Service Disaster Assistance website [USDA Food Nutrition Service Disaster Assistance website](#).

- [Nationwide Non-Congregate Feeding Waiver](#): The USDA has provided nationwide approval for States to locally waive congregate feeding in all child nutrition programs. To maintain social distancing guidelines, meals can be served to children in non-congregate meal settings and do not have to be consumed on-site.
- [Nationwide Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup Waiver](#): The USDA is allowing States approved for non-congregate feeding to waive the rule preventing parents and guardians from picking up meals for their children or adults in adult day services programs. Parents and guardians may pick up meals for their children at meal distribution sites. Feeding sites must protect program accountability and integrity.
- [Nationwide Mealtimes Waiver](#): The USDA has provided a nationwide waiver to support access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure to the novel coronavirus. Meals served can be served outside of established mealtimes in non-congregate meal service settings
- [Nationwide Afterschool Activity Waiver](#): The USDA has provided a nationwide waiver to support access to nutritious meals and snacks while minimizing potential exposure to the novel coronavirus by removing the requirement that NSLP afterschool snack program and CACFP at-risk afterschool meal and snack program serve meals and snacks in a structured, supervised environment and provide an enrichment activity. This enables afterschool programming to serve meals/snacks in non-congregate meal service settings. Meals/snacks do not have to be consumed on-site.

- [Nationwide Meal Pattern Waiver](#): The USDA has provided nationwide approval for States to locally waive specific meal pattern requirements **as needed** due to food shortages to support access to nutritious meals when certain foods are not available due to the novel coronavirus. (see CACFP Frequently Asked Questions below)

### **MDE Child Nutrition Programs Available Meal Service Options**

For programs that participated in the CACFP, NSLP, SBP or the SFSP, there are several options to participate during the public health crisis.

#### **Unanticipated School Closure Summer Food Service Program**

If you participated in the SFSP, NSLP, SBP or CACFP and were in good standing, you can service meals through the [Unanticipated School Closure Summer Food Service Program](#). Find more information on their [website](#).

#### **Early Head Start, Head Start and Great Start to Readiness Programs:**

Early Head Start, Head Start, Great Start Readiness Program childcare centers located within public school buildings can serve as a childcare site for essential workers during the public health emergency. For Information on obtaining a Disaster Relief Child Care Center Provisional License Application, see the [LARA Disaster Relief Child Care Site](#).

#### **Closed Child Care or Adult Day Services Centers:**

If you are a closed child or adult day services care center, you can still serve meals to participants in a non-congregate setting.

#### **If your child or adult care center is closed, you can:**

- Distribute meals to children, adults, or a family member of your enrolled participant using creative meal service options such as “grab and go” or “take out” bagged or boxed meals.
- Provide a menu with meal distribution location(s) and times included to your participants and their families to preserve social distancing.
- Provide families additional resources as to where they can find emergency food in your community during the stay home stay safe order. See the **Help Families find Other Food Assistance in their Communities** section below for how to find meals in your area.

#### **CACFP At-Risk After School Programs:**

At-risk afterschool school programs that were participating in the CACFP can continue to claim non-congregate meals in the CACFP during the public health emergency.

At-risk afterschool programs can serve meals under the Unanticipated School Closure Summer Food Service Program (USC SFSP) rules under the two USDA waivers allowing for non-congregate meals to be served and waiving the enrichment requirement. This allows schools to be reimbursed for serving free meals to all children 18 years and younger while still adhering to the “social distancing” recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

If your local school district/institution is currently not participating in the USC SFSP, please direct staff to the [MDE's Unanticipated School Closure SFSP](#) site. To participate a simple intake form must be completed with school and site information.

**CACFP Afterschool Programs already participating in the Unanticipated School Closure SFSP:**

Programs that are participating in the Unanticipated School Closure SFSP can also participate in the CACFP at-risk after school program or the NSLP afterschool program to distribute a supper to children along with the two meals allowed under the Unanticipated School Closure SFSP.

If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to your assigned program analyst or to [MDE-CNAP-CACFP@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-CNAP-CACFP@michigan.gov).

## **Child and Adult Care Food Program Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Can new institutions or sponsors apply to participate in the CACFP, during this public health crisis?**

Please contact Dana Galardi, MDE Program Analyst, at [GalardiD@michigan.gov](mailto:GalardiD@michigan.gov), to get more information on the CACFP application process during the public health crisis.

### **Do I need to amend my MEGS+ application to distribute non-congregate meals?**

If you are distributing meals on days you typically did not serve meals, such as on the weekend, please amend your CACFP application to include the new meal service days and the meals you are distributing.

### **How do I claim non-congregate meals?**

If you elect to participate in the Unanticipated School Closure Summer Food Service Program, you will claim through this program's claiming process.

If you elect to continue to participate in the CACFP, you will claim through CACFP. Contact your assigned program analyst (email is best) with any questions.

### **Can I extend my service to include weekends?**

Yes, please amend your CACFP application to update mealtimes and days of service.

### **Can I make substitutions to my menu?**

Meal pattern requirements are still in effect. If you need to make menu substitutions, document your changes on your menu as you would typically. Maintain your updated menu with your program records.

### **What do I do if I cannot obtain a required meal component where I purchase food and milk?**

Meals served are required to have all required components that meet the meal pattern requirements. Nutrition is key to maintaining health in wellness, especially during a public health crisis. Can you substitute another item from the same group? For instance, if you cannot find whole wheat bread, substitute a tortilla, a wrap, crackers, rice or pasta. Fresh, frozen, and canned foods can all be used too. If you cannot obtain a required component, meals served without a required component to be approved by MDE CACFP. Please contact Melissa Lonsberry at [lonsberrym@michigan.gov](mailto:lonsberrym@michigan.gov). Please refer to [Nationwide Meal Pattern Waiver](#) for additional information pertaining to this waiver.

### **Do I have to provide hot meals?**

No, cold and frozen meals are allowed as well. Grab and go style of meals are perfectly fine. If you serve frozen meals, please include reheating and storage instructions. Remember food safety when distributing grab and go meals. Be creative with your menu planning. Serve cold sandwiches or wraps. Use meat alternatives such as cheese, yogurt, hummus, and nut butters. Instead of a sandwich, how about a cold pasta or rice salad? Add chickpeas or kidney beans for a meat alternate. Distribute canned vegetables and fruits. For snacks, consider savory crackers, string cheese, cereal, canned fruit or vegetables.

### **Can I provide several days of meals?**

Yes, you can. Please keep in mind food safety concerns with distribution of multiple meals. Consider families may not have extra storage or refrigerator space.

### **How do I take meal attendance for non-congregate meals?**

If you are claiming meals through the CACFP for childcare, please take meal attendances as you normally would by name and meal type. Children claimed for Category A and B required a valid Household Eligibility Statement or are to be claimed for category C for the lowest rate of reimbursement. If you serve unenrolled children, add their names to the meal attendance form and claim as Category C.

For CACFP At-risk afterschool programs, take meal attendance by head count for meals distributed.

### **Can I only provide meals for children registered for care? What about siblings and parents?**

In this situation, please feed all children. Unfortunately, adults cannot be fed within the CACFP Regulations, however some organizations have sought community donations to feed adults. If you distribute meals to siblings of enrolled children, you can add the child's name to the meal attendance and claim those meals in Category C.

### **What are the recordkeeping requirements for distributing non-congregate meals?**

To maintain the integrity of the program, records must be retained for reimbursable meals and snacks distributed to children during the public health crisis. Records to maintain:

- Disaster Relief Childcare Programs
  - LARA Provisional License
  - Dated menus with any substitutions made
  - Meal attendance sheets
  - Child or adult care: by participant name
  - Complete Household Income eligibility forms for participants claimed in Category A and B
  - Food service and administrative labor hours
  - Food and non-food costs
- CACFP Childcare Programs:
  - Dated menus with any substitutions made
  - Meal attendance sheets
  - Child or adult care: by participant name
  - Complete Household Income eligibility forms for participants claimed in Category A and B
  - Food service and administrative labor hours
  - Food and non-food costs
- CACFP At-risk Afterschool Programs
  - Dated menus with any substitutions made
  - Meal attendance sheets
  - Food service and administrative labor hours
  - Food and non-food costs

If you have any questions, please contact your assigned program analyst (email is best) or to [MDE-CNAP-CACFP@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-CNAP-CACFP@michigan.gov). We are here to assist you.

## Help Families find Other Food Assistance in their Communities

During times of emergency, it is important to help kids and families know where to find food. Many schools across Michigan are participating in our statewide program to feed children age 18 and younger while schools are closed. In addition, many families and seniors need emergency food to make it through this trying time. [A map of nearby agencies](#) can help connect families with food banks, food pantries, and community action agencies who are stepping up their operations to care for the nutritional needs of Michigan's citizens, young and old.

Don't forget that the local 2-1-1 service is a great resource. Families can call 2-1-1 directly or visit [www.mi211.org](http://www.mi211.org) to find a number of types of assistance, including food assistance organizations.

Help families find out where to get meals for all kids age 18 and under even while schools are closed. Use our Meet Up and Eat Up [SFSP Meal Finder map!](#)

Please help families facing food insecurity by putting them in touch with emergency food resources. Use our [map of agencies in your area](#).

### **No Kid Hungry's request for schools interested in grant money to feed kids**

As the situation with feeding kids during times of school closure rapidly evolves, our friends at No Kid Hungry will continually assess how to deploy funds for maximum impact and reach for those who need it most. Areas of funding support include non-congregate and home delivered meals, emergency meals programs and extended meals service, school and community pantries, backpack programs, and other identified opportunities to address the growing number of children and families who may lose access to meals. School districts, community organizations, and government agencies in need of assistance can contact No Kid Hungry via the linked [COVID-19 support inquiry form](#). Organizations eligible for funding will be contacted directly to apply.

[No Kid Hungry may offer grant money to schools providing meals to kids affected by closure. Use their COVID-19 support inquiry form today!](#)

## **Quick Links:**

### **MDE Unanticipated School Closure SFSP:**

[https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254\\_34491-489165--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_34491-489165--,00.html)

MDE SFSP quick diagram on what steps to follow to begin serving meals:

[https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254\\_34491-489165--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_34491-489165--,00.html)

### **Meet Up and Eat Up SFSP Meal Service Site Locator Map:**

<https://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/schoolnutrition/> or [www.michigan.gov/meetupeatup](http://www.michigan.gov/meetupeatup)

### **MDE CACFP Website**

[https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254\\_25656---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_25656---,00.html)

### **MDE School Nutrition Programs**

[https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254\\_50144---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144---,00.html)

### **MDE Food Distribution Programs**

[https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254\\_61446---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_61446---,00.html)

### **Sites for Food Assistance Information:**

#### **Meet Up and Eat Up SFSP Meal Service Site Locator Map:**

<https://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/schoolnutrition/> or [www.michigan.gov/meetupeatup](http://www.michigan.gov/meetupeatup)

#### **TEFAP (emergency food for families) and CSFP (food for seniors age 60 and up) locator map:**

<https://michigan.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3f6cd37271764ed086329491732a7d2a>

#### **TEFAP (emergency food for families) and CSFP (food for seniors age 60 and up) agency directory:**

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/TEFAP\\_CSFP\\_Agency\\_Directory\\_554221\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/TEFAP_CSFP_Agency_Directory_554221_7.pdf)

**Michigan 2-1-1 website:** [www.mi211.org](http://www.mi211.org)

**No Kid Hungry:** <https://www.nokidhungry.org/>

#### **No Kid Hungry's COVID-19 support inquiry form:**

<https://www.nokidhungry.org/coronavirus-grant-request>

### **Area Agency on Aging**

<https://www.michigan.gov/osa/1,4635,7-234-64081-295815--,00.html>