



Reaching Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic : USDA Child Nutrition Programs

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OVERVIEW

- Modifications to Existing School Programs
- New Program Options
- Other Nutrition Assistance Programs



Families First Coronavirus Response Act

PL 116-27

- Enacted 3/18/2020
- Provided USDA with authorities to modify/expand programs and creates new program options
- Large funding increases



School Feeding Programs: Phase 1:

Spring 2020

- Non-Congregate Meals
- Area Eligibility Flexibility
- Meal Pattern/Nutrition Requirements



School Feeding Programs: Phase 2:

Back to School Planning

- School-based model, with flexibilities
- Return to means tested approach



School Feeding Programs: Phase 3:

Back to School Fall 2020

- Return to Area Eligibility Flexibility
- Maximum flexibility for all school models
- Minimize admin burden, maximizes support for schools, families



New Program Options

- Pandemic EBT- Cards for Food Purchase
- Operated in Spring 2020
- Congress Extended for New School Year



P-EBT Impacts

- Operated in all States
- Serve up to 30 million students
- Benefit from \$250-\$450
- Evidence suggests P-EBT reduced food insecurity



New Program Options

- Meals to You Program
- Farmers to Families Food Box



FNS COVID-19 Website

- Find information about USDA FNS efforts to respond to COVID-19

[https://www.fns.usda.gov/
disaster/pandemic/
covid-19](https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19)



Looking Beyond the Pandemic

- Best Practices Elevated and Replicated
- Program Models that Treat the Whole Person and Family
- Effective and Efficient Program Delivery
- Focus on Customer Service

