



School Nutrition Programs (SNP) News and Updates

October 22, 2020

10 Cents A Meal Grant Available

The application deadline for the 10 Cents a Meal grant is coming up! All completed applications must be submitted by **9:00 am on Monday, October 26**. Click on the following link for the application: [10 Cents A Meal Grant Application](#). Open up the tabs on the upper left to complete the required pages.

The 10 Cents a Meal program is a competitive, matching grant opportunity for ALL school districts (public, PSA, or private), RCCIs, and sponsors of child care centers who participate in USDA reimbursable Child Nutrition Programs (Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks, Suppers).

The application is competitive and asks for information such as:

- Current local, minimally processed produce purchasing and how it's used in your program(s)
- Current farm-to-school partnerships
- Marketing plans for local purchasing initiatives
- Project goals including educational efforts

To learn more about the grant and the success districts have had, visit [10 Cents A Meal](#). For questions about the application, please contact Liana Bennett, BennettL4@michigan.gov or Jaime Malnar, MalnarJ1@michigan.gov.

New Grant: 31k Funding for Student Meal Negative Balance Forgiveness School Year 2020-2021

Exciting news! Only for the 2020-2021 School Year, we have \$1 million in new state school aid fund money appropriated (Section 31k) for reimbursement payments to public school districts, charter schools, and public-school academies who forgive all outstanding current student-meal negative balances.

Reimbursement payments can be awarded to eligible districts that apply. We are currently working on this application. The application will go live by early November with a firm deadline to apply no later than December 1, 2020.

Submissions will be evaluated and reimbursement payments for selected districts will be made within 60 days of the final deadline. The funds may be prorated if there is not enough to cover all eligible submissions.

To be eligible districts must:

- Write off current/active/enrolled student meal negative balances with a transfer from the General Fund.
 - Student Meal Negative Balances paid off from private donations or angel funds are not eligible for Forgiveness Reimbursement.
 - Bad debt written off for inactive students in prior school years is not eligible for Student Meal Negative Balance Forgiveness Reimbursement.
- Adopt a meal charge policy that prevents public identification and all forms of lunch shaming as outlined in State Aid Section 31k (see below).

The application will require submission of the following:

1. The transactions used to write off negative balances from the Food Service Fund with a transfer from the General Fund as of September 30, 2020.
2. Total amount of forgiven negative balances for current/active/enrolled students as of September 30, 2020, by eligibility status.
3. A copy of the student roster by eligibility of negative balances for current/active/enrolled students as of September 30, 2020.
4. Meal charge policy that prevents lunch shaming with the specifics outlined in State Aid Section 31k as follows:
 - prohibits the requiring of students who cannot pay for a school meal or who owe a negative balance to wear a wristband or handstamp
 - prohibits the requiring of students who cannot pay for a school meal or who owe a negative balance to perform chores or other work to pay for school meals
 - prohibits the requiring of students to dispose of a meal after it has been served because the student is unable to pay for the meal or has a negative balance
 - prohibits the direct communication with a student about a negative balance unless your district has unsuccessfully attempted to contact the student's parent or legal guardian first through telephone, mail, and electronic mail
 - prohibits discussing a negative balance with a student in the presence of other students

More details and a link to the application will be sent out through the SNP News and other communication avenues later in October.

Questions regarding this grant opportunity can be sent to the Fiscal and Administrative Services Monitoring Team at MDE-Fiscal@Michigan.gov or 517-241-5380.

Questions and Answers:

Question: How far back can we go for negative balance write offs? Just the 2019/2020 school year?

Answer: To be eligible the negative balances must be from current students, and it must be written off from the general fund. Negative balances from inactive students (bad debt) are not eligible.

Question: Can I just wipe/forgive the negative balances from the Food Service Fund without a transfer from the General Fund?

Answer: No. It is not allowable to absorb negative balances in the Food Service Fund. They must be paid for from a non-federal funding source like the General Fund (excluding donations or Angel Funds).

Question: Does the meal charge policy have to be Board approved?

Answer: No, this is not a requirement. However, it is a best practice.

Question: How will I be notified if my district is chosen to receive the Forgiveness funding?

Answer: You will receive a notification from GEMS/MARS once the awardees have been chosen.

Building Healthy Communities: Step Up for School Wellness

We are excited to announce the 2020-2021 *Building Healthy Communities: Step Up for School Wellness* program is **adding new flexibility and expanding programming** to help schools gear up for a safe return in the fall by providing resources that can be offered in the classroom or through a virtual format. Program expansions include virtual options, expanded resources for mental health through social emotional learning, and food delivery support to address the evolving mode of delivery for school meals. Applications are due **October 30, 2020**, and recipients will be announced in the fall.

The Building Healthy Communities: Step Up for School Wellness program is an innovative program that provides students, teachers and administrators with the necessary tools to create a healthier school environment. The program empowers and educates children to improve nutrition, increase physical activity and address mental health and well-being, building lifelong habits.

Under the expansion, **all Michigan schools are now eligible to apply**, even if they previously participated in a Building Healthy Communities program.

A key resource available for schools to apply for under the program supports efforts to address the mental health and well-being of students and staff. Schools can apply for social emotional learning education and resources which can help empower students and staff to better understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Another key resource available to schools through the program will increase access to school meals by providing options to transport meals safely to students while addressing the evolving mode of delivery for school meals. Schools can choose options that best support mobile meal delivery and their existing school meal capacity. Examples include mobile food carts, rolling coolers, milk crate bags or even social distancing signage.

School leaders can review the full program and apply at [Building Healthy Communities](#). The program is open to ALL public, charter, or private nonprofit schools in Michigan serving any grade levels.

The Building Healthy Communities: Step Up for School Wellness is made available to schools through a partnership including Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Department of Education, Michigan Health Endowment Fund, Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association, Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Fitness Foundation, and United Dairy Industry of Michigan.

Michigan Food Heroes

The United Dairy Industry of Michigan is celebrating School Nutrition employees and their great work all year—not just during National School Lunch Week. Check out the new website at [Food Heroes](#) to see new featured schools.

Upcoming Events

Town Hall Meetings

Topic: Town Hall Meeting

Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020

Time: 2:00 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://zoom.us/j/98740067623?pwd=K1pSWWxjbDZ5VnJNVmZzWGJYdUdxQT09>

Password: X51070

Or Telephone:

Dial: USA 404 443 6397

USA 8773361831 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 806533

School Nutrition Association of Michigan (SNAM) Virtual Annual Conference & Exhibit Show - November 10 until December 31, 2020

Registration is now open. Please visit [HERE](#) to register today.

Chef Jeff will be kicking us off on November 10 at 2 pm with a live keynote.

The remainder educational sessions will be pre-recorded and available from November 10 until December 31 so that you and your team can watch as many as you would like at a time most convenient to you! Sessions will involve the following topics:

1. Mental Health, self-care, employee health, leading in stressful times, having fun, treating people nicely
2. Local foods, food distribution, meal quality, meal service options and related equipment
3. MDE track: all things school meal regulations
4. Financial: best use of commodity dollars, increasing participation, KPIs, meal debt

There will also be a virtual food show presented by From the Show Floor, where you will have the opportunity to view episodes from your favorite vendors, anytime during our conference event. Please visit the [registration page](#) for a full list of participating industry partners.

More information to come on a detailed agenda.

Institute of Child Nutrition S.T.A.R. Webinar

Webinar: Farm to School Efforts Supporting Resilient Local Food Systems

Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020 - 3:00-4:00 pm ET

Learning Objective(s): Attendees will identify strategies and best practices to help implement a successful farm to school program.

Join Julie Brewer, the Director of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Office of Community Food Systems (OCFS) to learn about the USDA Farm to School Program. This webinar will explore resources and support that OCFS provides in order to support the implementation of local farm to school programs. The webinar will also highlight success stories from USDA Farm to School Program Grantees who

are adapting their work around gardening, local procurement and agriculture education in creative ways to support children, families, and communities in response to the pandemic.

To Register: [Webinar Registration](#)

A continuing education certificate will be available after completion of the webinar.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Virtual Job Fair

Home health agencies from Southeast Michigan will be participating in a virtual job fair to answer questions about their organization and current job opportunities. See the link below to learn more and sign up for the virtual event!

Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

[Virtual Job Fair Page](#)

Updates, Guidance, and Regulation Information from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service

School Meals Programs: Providing Multiple Meals at a Time During the Pandemic

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has released a new Team Nutrition resource for school meals operators, “School Meals Programs: Providing Multiple Meals at a Time During the Pandemic.” This resource is available for download at [Providing Meals at a Time During the Pandemic](#).

Other Team Nutrition Pandemic resources are available at: [Team Nutrition Resources](#).

Reminders and Due Dates

2021 MEGS+ CNP: SNP Application

If your school is going to switch to Extended SFSP beginning in August or September 2020, you must still complete the 2021 MEGS+ SNP application. It is very important that MDE approves both the 2020 SFSP and the 2021 SNP applications.

Michigan Electronic Grant System Plus (MEGS+) Child Nutrition Programs (CNP): School Nutrition Programs (SNP) 2021 Application is now available.

The MEGS+ website for completing the SNP 2021 Application is at [MEGS+](#).

Training Corner

Michigan Nutrition Training Calendar

During this time of necessary social distancing, it is very important for the field to have access to all the virtual trainings available to them, to help them continue to do their jobs. If you are offering an online/virtual training, please fill out and submit this questionnaire: [I want my training added to the MI Nutrition Training Calendar](#). Be sure to fill out ALL of the information including NA if the question does not apply. Trainings cannot be added to the calendar without the complete information.

Please visit the [Michigan Nutrition Training Calendar](#), a one-stop-shop calendar that lists child nutrition trainings across the state. The more trainings listed, the better the calendar will be for our Child Nutrition Programs!

If you have questions, contact MDE-MINutritionTraining@michigan.gov.

[How to Access the MI Nutrition Training Calendar](#)

School Nutrition Programs Training - Update

During this time of necessary social distancing, MDE has canceled scheduled in-person trainings for the time being. Instead, MDE will begin offering virtual training on various topics. Please check back periodically at the [MDE Training Website page](#) to see what is planned.

Chef Ann Foundation - Free Course Details

The following is from the Chef Ann Foundation: To support school food workers during this difficult time, the Chef Ann Foundation is offering free [School Food Institute](#) (SFI) courses. The SFI is an online professional development platform focused on healthy school food. SFI uses an interactive design with videos and resources, and meets USDA Professional Standards. Each course typically costs \$99 - \$149.

School food staff members may enroll in **up to 3** free SFI courses of their choosing. Learn more about SFI and view courses by visiting [SFI Course Catalog](#)

This offer is first-come, first-serve, so if interested, we encourage you to enroll as soon as possible. Course access lasts for 6 months from the date of enrollment. Courses are available with Spanish subtitles.

How to Enroll

- Select your desired course(s) from the [Course Catalog page](#).
- Add the course/s to the cart.
- To check out, click on the cart icon at the top right corner and select "Checkout." At checkout, enter coupon code **RemotePD20** to receive your free registration. Each student must enroll with their own email address (this creates a unique student account). If the code is no longer valid, that means that all seats have been claimed. PLEASE sign up for our [scholarship waitlist](#) - we open new free seats regularly, and would love to support you when we can.
- After checkout, you'll receive an email shortly with links & how to access SFI.

Contact info@schoolfoodinstitute.org with questions.

Questions of the Week

Question: If an SFA wants to participate in the Afterschool Snack Program as a "third meal/snack," the snacks need to be claimed by eligibility as there isn't a nationwide waiver to waive the eligibility requirement for this program, correct? Said another way, there isn't anything that allows, such as a waiver of area eligibility,

SFAs to serve all snacks as free (under the National School Lunch Program Afterschool snack), correct? Just want to make sure we didn't miss anything.

Answer: You are correct. School sites that are not area eligible must use a child's free and reduced-prices status to determine the eligibility for the Afterschool Snack Program. There is no area eligibility waiver in place for NSLP Afterschool Snack. The current area eligibility waiver applies to NSLP SSO and SFSP.

Question: Can we plan to use excess funds in future years if we have a building project into future years?

Answer: There is a one year carry over extension to spend down excess fund balances if the SFA is not able to spend down in that year. Please email MDE-Fiscal@michigan.gov for more information.

Question: For 31k, can we pay our current student negative balances if we have a fund excess?

Answer: No, current student negative balances cannot be funded by an EFB. They would have to be covered by the General Fund or other Non-Federal funding source.

Question: If a student comes to a meal pick up site that has a food allergy, does the food service staff need to serve that student?

Answer: Yes. SFSP, NSLP, and CACFP are required to make accommodations for special dietary needs. A signed medical statement is needed to make accommodations. Work with the family to have safe meals available for the student. The family may need to pre-order meals so it is labeled and ready for them.

Contact Us

Email: MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov

Nutrition Gateway: The Michigan Department of Education [Nutrition Gateway](#) provides Child Nutrition Program (CNP) agencies a singular system to

access annual CNP applications (MEGSplus), monthly claims (MIND) and periodic administrative reviews (GEMS/MARS) through an integrated dashboard and portal.

If you or someone you know is interested in receiving the School Nutrition News and Updates and SNP Bulletins, visit [School Nutrition News and Updates Subscription](#).

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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Links Used in this Document:

<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/GEMS/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i4a9sbdp>

<https://www.tencentsmichigan.org/>

<https://buildinghealthycommunities.arenwehealthy.com/>

<https://www.mifoodheroes.com/>

<https://michigansna.org/meetinginfo.php?id=608&ts=1601664768>

https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2pOaWwiZTkWZln5t3_djBA

<https://app.brazenconnect.com/a/Michigan/e/agNwM>

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/school-meals-programs-providing-multiple-meals-time-during-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic>

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/covid19-resources>

https://mdoe.state.mi.us/MEGSPlus/Login2.aspx?APPTHEME=MIMDE_MEGSPLUS&ReturnURL=/megsplus/

<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gems/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i4a9scdr>

<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gateway/Authentication/TrainingCalendar>

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Michigan_Nutrition_Training_Calendar_Access_678629_7.pdf

https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144_94240_94245-508154--,00.html

<https://www.schoolfoodinstitute.org/>

<https://www.schoolfoodinstitute.org/course-catalog/>

<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gateway/Authentication/Login>

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new?topic_id=MIMDE_229

https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf