



# School Nutrition Programs (SNP) News and Updates

October 29, 2020

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## 10 Cents a Meal Application Deadline Extended

The deadline to apply for the 10 Cents a Meal grant has been extended to **Monday, November 2 at 5 pm.**

To access the application, click on the following link: [10 Cents a Meal Application](#).

### About 10 Cents a Meal

- The 10-Cents a Meal grant is a competitive, matching grant
- All school districts (public, PSA, or private), RCCIs, and sponsors of child care centers who participate in USDA reimbursable Child Nutrition Programs.
- It is an opportunity for ALL school districts and child care sponsors state-wide.
- Purchase at least twice the amount of the grant award in local produce
- Submit purchasing/invoice data
- Complete monthly surveys
- Claim for reimbursement

## **Tips to the Filling out the Application**

- We recommend you logging in with your MEIS account but if you do not have one you may log in as Guest.
- Make sure that all areas marked in red required are complete.
- Don't forget there is a required confirmation on the bottom part of the assurances page.
- On the budget page, make sure that the requested amount number is lower than the meal count number (ex. if the meal count number is 1,000 put less than \$1,000 in the requested line).
- Take out the \$ sign in the requested amount.
- On the program info page – if you checked “Other” please check to see that you have something in the text box beside or below.
- Check out the full FAQ at [10 Cents FAQ](#)

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 Michigan](#). For questions about the application, please contact Liana Bennett, [BennettL4@michigan.gov](mailto:BennettL4@michigan.gov) or Jaime Malnar, [MalnarJ1@michigan.gov](mailto:MalnarJ1@michigan.gov)

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## **Whitmer Administration Announces Grants for Eligible Teachers and Support Staff**

Governor Gretchen Whitmer and State Treasurer Rachael Eubanks announced that eligible Michigan teachers and support staff who worked additional time and incurred additional costs during the 2019-2020 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic can receive a grant through two new grant programs.

Under both the Teacher COVID-19 Grant and the Support Staff COVID-19 Grant programs, eligible teachers can receive up to \$500 and eligible support staff can receive up to \$250. The state of Michigan's Fiscal Year 2021 budget provides \$53 million for eligible K-12 classroom teachers and \$20 million for eligible support staff.

## **Teacher COVID-19 Grant Program**

The Teacher COVID-19 Grant Program was created in state law to recognize the additional time and additional costs classroom teachers in a school district or nonprofit nonpublic school spent to ensure learning continued when in-person instruction was suspended in the spring.

Full- and part-time classroom teachers who taught K-12 students in a school district or nonprofit nonpublic school classrooms during the 2019-2020 school year prior to the suspension of in-class activities are eligible.

To receive up to \$500, teachers must have performed at least of 75% of their standard instruction workload in brick and mortar classrooms during the last school year prior to the suspension of in-person instruction on April 2.

## **Support Staff COVID-19 Grant Program**

The Support Staff COVID-19 Grant Program was created in state law to recognize the additional time eligible K-12 support staff spent outside of normal working hours, hazardous conditions encountered and additional costs incurred to provide services to students when in-person instruction was suspended in the spring.

School support staff includes a full- or part-time paraprofessionals, aides or noninstructional staff who work in a public school, which includes local and intermediate school districts and public school academies. The Office of Health and Nutrition Services is excited to announce non instructional staff includes cook, cook manager and food service workers.

To receive up to \$250, individuals must have performed at least of 75% of their workload in brick and mortar buildings during the last school year prior to the suspension of in-person instruction on April 2.

## **Additional Grant Program Information**

The Michigan Department of Treasury is working with the Michigan Department of Education, school entities and other education partners to implement the programs. Eligible teachers and support staff should consult the school entity where they worked during the 2019-2020 school year to ensure they receive a grant.

Grant funding checks are anticipated to be sent directly from the state Treasury Department to teachers and support staff in February 2021.

For more information about the grant program, including frequently asked questions, go to [www.michigan.gov/TSSC19Grants](http://www.michigan.gov/TSSC19Grants).

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## **Food Service Administrative Memo No. 4 – School Year 2020-2021**

All sponsors participating in the USDA National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), AfterSchool Snack Program (ASSP), and the

Special Milk Program (SMP) must comply with federal civil rights requirements and regulations. This still applies to SFAs participating entirely in the Extended Summer Food Service Program (E-SFSP) for School Year 2020-2021. For information on civil rights compliance requirements for participation in the School Nutrition Programs, see [Food Service Administrative Memo No. 4 School Year 2020-2021](#).

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## **New Resource From No Kid Hungry: School Meals Marketing Toolkit**

As kids across Michigan returned to school this fall – many of them are continuing to learn virtually – we’ve heard a concerning trend: School districts are seeing very low school meal participation. In response, No Kid Hungry has created a brand new [School Meals Marketing Toolkit](#) to help you get the word out to families that school meals are available for all kids this year at no cost. It includes a variety of both ready to use and customizable assets— available in both English and Spanish— to use on your digital channels and to print and share with families. The toolkit includes social media images, sample social media posts, flyers, robocall scripts and a customizable letter to families. We hope you’ll share these resources far and wide. For more information, contact Mindy Grant, [grantm9@michigan.gov](mailto:grantm9@michigan.gov).

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## **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](mailto: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.

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## 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

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## 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.

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

### **Manager and Director Users Can Add Schools to the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool**

New features are now available on the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT). Team Nutrition appreciates receiving your feedback on the PSTTT and works continuously to improve the user experience. Per the overwhelming feedback, Team Nutrition has further enhanced the capability for director and manager users to easily add new schools to their district. In addition to existing capability of adding a new school when creating new user profiles, this feature is now available through the new “Manage Schools” page. On this new page, users can create a new school and edit the name and address for any school in their district.

Track your professional standards required training hours today using USDA’s free [Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool!](#)

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## **Questions and Answers Relating to the Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option Operations through School Year 2020-2021 – EXTENSION – Q&As #2**

[USDA Memorandum SP01, CACFP01, SFSP01-2021](#) includes questions and answers intended to provide clarification to State agencies and Program operators as they operate the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), NSLP Seamless Summer Option (SSO), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) in the coming months, during the pandemic.

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## **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+](#).

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## **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](mailto:MDE-MINutritionTraining@michigan.gov).



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

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### **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.

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### **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](mailto:info@schoolfoodinstitute.org) with questions.

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## Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) eLearning Portal - Announcing the Food Buying Guide Series.

USDA's new Food Buying Guide (FBG) Online Course Series is now available on ICN's eLearning Portal. The courses provide information about the functions of the FBG and allow users to become familiar with the resources and its features. For further information, visit [Food Buying Guide Online Course](#).

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### Questions of the Week

**Question:** May schools operating SFSP during the school year sell a la carte food items and beverages?

**Answer:** Yes, schools operating SFSP during the school year may sell a la carte foods and beverages as long as they continue to meet the competitive foods requirements. Foods and beverages sold in competition with reimbursable meals on the school campus during the school day must meet the competitive food standards described at 7 CFR 210.11, regardless of whether the school is operating NSLP/SBP or SFSP (7 CFR 210.11(b)(3)). For the purpose of the competitive food standards:

- The *school campus* means all areas of the property under the jurisdiction of the school that are accessible to students during the school day (7 CFR 210.11(a)(4)).
- The *school day* means the period from the midnight before, to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day (7 CFR 210.11(a)(5)).

Schools that are operating grab and go sites in areas outside of the school campus or providing meals before or after the official school day, are not required to meet the competitive food standards. SFAs must meet nonprofit food service account requirements outlined 7 CFR 225.15(4) for those operating SFSP.

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**Question:** When do I need to amend my SFSP application?

**Answer:** If you need to add January 2021 through April 2021, please hold off until after November 1, 2020. Our staff are working hard to approve applications for all our programs, so that August and September reimbursement claims are available to everyone before the deadlines. We are asking those with Open sites to make the amendments at the beginning of November, so we can make sure the map is up to date on time. All other site types Closed-Enrolled and Open-Restricted can be updated later in November 2020.

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**Question:** Where do I find the yearly free and reduced-price meal data reports for the entire state?

**Answer:** Program data is available at the School Nutrition Programs [Program Data Webpage](#).

## Contact Us

Email: [MDE-SchoolNutrition@Michigan.gov](mailto: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](#).

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## USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

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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](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](mailto: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/10\\_cents\\_grant\\_application\\_information](https://www.tencentsmichigan.org/10_cents_grant_application_information)  
<https://www.tencentsmichigan.org/>  
<https://spark.adobe.com/page/HlitaOoy09DTz/>  
<https://pstrainingtracker.fns.usda.gov/>  
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/qas-nationwide-waiver-sfsp-seamless-summer-through-sy-2020-21>  
[https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254\\_50144\\_92988-508789--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144_92988-508789--,00.html)  
<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/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.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://www.schoolfoodinstitute.org/scholarship-waitlist/>  
<https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gateway/Authentication/Login>  
[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=MIMDE\\_229](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](https://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf)