



## School Nutrition Programs (SNP) News and Updates

April 15, 2020

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### Fiscal Year 2021 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant Application is Available

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to announce that the Michigan Electronic Grants System Plus (MEGS+) application for the Fiscal Year 2021 FFVP grant is available for sponsors.

Please note – this year eligible schools are school buildings that house elementary students. MDE considers elementary students as those in grade 6 or lower. Building sites with elementary students that also contain students in grades 7 and higher may apply but must ensure that **ONLY** K-6 grade students receive the FFVP snacks. Ineligible sites are high schools, middle schools, or pre-K only buildings.

Limits on past United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding allowed MDE to award grants to schools with free and reduced-price eligibility at 85% or higher. Residential Child Care Institutions (RCCIs) can participate, provided they operate an elementary school program during the day and participate in the National School Lunch Program.

Applications are due to MDE by **May 20, 2020**.

Two documents – *Important Information about the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Application* and *Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) Grant Application – Tips for Completing the Application* are located on the MDE [FFVP webpage](#) (1) under How to Apply.

Questions regarding the 2021 FFVP MEGS+ application may be directed to [mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov) or by phone at 517-241-5374.

## **Fiscal Year 2021 FFVP Application Webinars**

MDE is hosting three webinars about how to complete the Fiscal Year 2021 FFVP application. Please plan to attend one of the following webinars:

**Wednesday, April 22 from 10:00 - 11:00 am**

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[+1 248-509-0316](tel:+12485090316) United States, Pontiac (Toll)

Conference ID: 178 573 351#

**Wednesday, April 22 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm**

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[+1 248-509-0316](tel:+12485090316) United States, Pontiac (Toll)

Conference ID: 320 996 451#

**Thursday, April 23 from 2:00 - 3:00 pm**

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[+1 248-509-0316](tel:+12485090316) United States, Pontiac (Toll)

Conference ID: 581 172 719#

## **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) School Year 2020-2021 Eligibility Notification**

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is required to notify National School Lunch Program sponsors of their potential eligibility to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). The following [spreadsheet](#) (2) is based on fall 2019 data and its

purpose is to help you determine if your school/district is eligible to participate in CEP this coming school year.

The spreadsheet includes:

- Schools/districts currently participating in CEP.
- Schools/districts eligible to participate in CEP (Identified Student Percentage >40%).
- Schools/districts near eligible to participate in CEP (Identified Student Percentage 30.00-39.99%).

Certified Spring 2020 data will be posted in May 2020, at the [School Nutrition Programs Website](#) (3) and will also be part of your 2021 CNP: School Nutrition Program Michigan Electronic Grants System Plus (MEGS+) Application.

You must notify the MDE School Nutrition Programs (SNP) unit of your intention to participate in the CEP for School Year 2020-2021 by August 31, 2020, or the first day of school, whichever is earlier. The [Nationwide Waiver of Community Eligibility Deadlines](#) (4) extended the deadline for electing CEP for the upcoming school year. SNP requires the notification to occur by selecting “yes” to question number 12 and saving the *Sponsor Information Page* in the 2021 CNP: School Nutrition Program MEGS+ Application. This selection must be made by the deadline, as a late selection cannot be approved.

The 2021 MEGS+ application will be available in May 2020.

Questions regarding CEP may be directed to [MickelsonN@michigan.gov](mailto:MickelsonN@michigan.gov). Questions regarding MEGS+ may be directed to [mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-schoolnutrition@michigan.gov) or by phone at 517-241-5374.

## **Administrative Review Plans for School Year (SY) 2020-2021**

School districts in Michigan were required to close on March 16, 2020. The MDE Office of Health and Nutrition Services decided to take staff out of the field on March 12, 2020, as a precaution. A few Administrative Reviews (AR) were put on-hold mid-review, others were put on-hold after the off-site preparations (assessment tool, phone call, documentation uploads) had been completed. Others may have been scheduled then immediately put on hold. The School Nutrition review team will work with all sponsors scheduled for an AR during the 2019-2020 SY to ensure a smooth transition to SY 2020-2021. The review team has flexibility to complete on-site visits (meal observations) in September 2020, while using all previously submitted documentation. Reviews may be rescheduled for late fall/early spring SY 2020-2021.

Some documentation will need to be uploaded again (annual Civil Rights training, updated free and reduced-price student list, possibly new meal pattern documentation depending on menus planned) but School Nutrition analysts will work with each sponsor to determine the best approach. Please reach out to your analyst with any questions or concerns about upcoming reviews.

## **Updates, Guidance, and Regulation Information from USDA Food and Nutrition Service**

New enhancements have been released to the Exhibit A Grains Tool, a feature included with the [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs \(FBG\) Interactive Web-Based Tool](#) (5) and [FBG Mobile App](#). (6) The Exhibit A Grains Tool allows users to search for a grain product (as listed on Exhibit A) and enter in the serving size from the product label. The tool currently helps the program operator determine: 1) ounce equivalent (oz eq) grains or grains/bread serving(s) for the grains product, and 2) amount to serve to provide a desired grains contribution. The new update to the tool allows the program operators to determine the amount to serve for a grain product in order to meet the minimum grains requirement by age/grade group for a specific CNP. New updates to the [FBG introduction sections and appendixes](#) (7) were also released to reflect latest policy guidance on meal pattern flexibilities released last year.

The FBG Mobile App is available on the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store [FBG Mobile App](#) (8) Check to ensure you have the most current version of the app on your mobile devices.

## **United Dairy Industry of Michigan Virtual Farm Tour**

Family outings may be canceled but that doesn't mean fun and learning have to end! Take your herd on a LIVE virtual farm tour with our friends @MilkMeansMore. The event is Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at 10 a.m. via their Facebook LIVE. You will see cute cows, get an inside look on how milk is produced, learn more about dairy farming, and how Michigan dairy farmers are bringing nutritious dairy products to your home. For further information, visit [Virtual Farm Tour](#). (9)

## **Reminders and Due Dates**

### **National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grant Application Deadline Approaching**

The closing date for the 2021 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant is Monday May 4, 2020, at 11:59 pm EST. The application must be submitted through the Michigan

Electronic Grants System Plus (MEGS+) at [MEGS+](#) (10) and is listed as the NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant under Fiscal Year 2021.

We are unable to:

- Accept any applications received after closing date.
- Process incomplete or late applications.
- Accept faxed, mailed or email submissions.

The 2019 Agriculture Appropriations Act authorized funds that allow the MDE to competitively award equipment assistance grants to eligible School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the NSLP. The department received over \$600,000 in Federal funds for distribution to SFAs. These funds allow for the purchase or renovation of capital equipment used to serve healthier meals, meet the nutritional standards with emphasis on more fresh fruits and vegetables in school meals, improve food safety, improve quality, and expand accessibility to food services. For further information, contact [MDE-fiscal@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-fiscal@michigan.gov).

## Training Corner

### Michigan Nutrition Training Calendar

Please visit the [MI Nutrition Training Calendar](#), (11) a one-stop-shop calendar that lists child nutrition trainings across the state. Use the links below to ***have your training added to the calendar*** or if you would like **MDE staff to come and train or speak at your training**.

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](#) (12)

[I want my training added to the MI Nutrition Training Calendar](#) (13)

[I would like MDE staff to come and train at my training.](#) (14)

## Question of the Week

**Question:** How do I Participate in Traditional Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)?

**Answer:**

Returning SFSP Sponsors:

- Submit the 2020 SFSP Application in MEGS+ by **May 1, 2020**.
- Complete SFSP training (if required) online.

New SFSP Sponsors:

- Review potential sites for [eligibility](#) (15) (At least 50% free/reduced applications or census map data).
- Refer to the Superintendent Outreach sent from MDE in February to districts that do not participate in the SFSP, but are eligible. Superintendents, food service directors, homeless liaisons, and business managers of districts were provided SFSP site eligibility information for eligible sites in their district.
- If you have eligible sites, are a new sponsor, and want to serve this summer, email [mde-sfsp@Michigan.gov](mailto:mde-sfsp@Michigan.gov) specifying you want to participate and need access to the 2020 SFSP Application in MEGS+.
- Submit the 2020 SFSP Application by **May 1, 2020**.

## Contact Us

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

Nutrition Gateway: The Michigan Department of Education [Nutrition Gateway](#) (16) 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](#). (17)

## 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, audiotope, 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](#), (18) (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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## Hyperlinks for Ease of Access

- (1) [https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254\\_50144\\_94242\\_94243-504910--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_50144_94242_94243-504910--,00.html)
- (2) [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/2020\\_District\\_Level\\_CEP\\_Information\\_6\\_86641\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/2020_District_Level_CEP_Information_6_86641_7.pdf)
- (3) [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)
- (4) [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/CEP\\_Deadline\\_Waiver\\_-\\_3.25.20\\_685437\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/CEP_Deadline_Waiver_-_3.25.20_685437_7.pdf)
- (5) <https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/>
- (6) <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-mobile-app>

- (7) <https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/Appendix/DownloadFBG>
- (8) <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-mobile-app>
- (9) <https://www.milkmeansmore.org/virtual-farm-tour/>
- (10) [https://mdoe.state.mi.us/MEGSPlus/Login2.aspx?APPTHEME=MIMDE\\_MEGSPLUS&ReturnURL=/MEGSPlus](https://mdoe.state.mi.us/MEGSPlus/Login2.aspx?APPTHEME=MIMDE_MEGSPLUS&ReturnURL=/MEGSPlus)
- (11) <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gateway/Authentication/TrainingCalendar>
- (12) [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)
- (13) <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gems/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i4a9scdr>
- (14) <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gems/public/QuestionnaireHome.aspx?code=i4a9scdq>
- (15) [https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254\\_34491-457608--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-66254_34491-457608--,00.html)
- (16) <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/gateway/Authentication/Login>
- (17) [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=MIMDE\\_229](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/subscriber/new?topic_id=MIMDE_229)
- (18) [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)