



Eos Foundation's Community-Wide Children's Meals Grant Program

The Eos Foundation is working with all school districts in Massachusetts to ensure any child in their communities has access to **two daily meals** by leveraging reimbursements from the USDA emergency meals program. To help districts maximize meals for children (ages 0-18 or 0-21, depending on which program they utilize), we are providing grants of up to \$10,000 per district (see application on next page). Monies may be used for non-food costs, primarily equipment, so that districts can increase the number of USDA reimbursable meals they produce and distribute. In addition to opening sites to feed children, we also encourage districts to provide mobile meals for those who are homebound and to prepare for the possibility of a state order to shelter in place.

To help districts set up or optimize their programs, we have videos and other resources on our [Facebook page @EosFoundation1](#) and [website](#), in addition to the tips below. For more information, please contact Andrea Silbert at silbert@eosfoundation.org or 508-221-8130.

Smart strategies to maximize participation in children's emergency meals programs

- Schools/sites should offer **2 free meals/day** (bagged breakfast and bagged lunch) to all children (0-21 for Seamless Summer Option and 0-18 for Summer Food Service Program). Kids (or parents/guardians on behalf of kids) can take both meals at once.
- **Kids do not need to be present for parents/guardians to pick up the meals.**
- School districts should make sure communications clear to include **all children 0-18** (or 0-21 for SSO). Some districts have mistakenly publicized the program as for "school age children."
- **On Fridays, sites should provide families 6 meals** to cover both a breakfast and a lunch on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.
- Any child from any district/community can pick up meals. Children do not have to be from your school, or even from your district. This is a community-wide feeding program.
- Some sites have experienced low uptake due to concerns around social distancing, and because kids may be home alone and unable to come on their own. To increase participation, districts should open multiple sites including bus stops, public housing developments, parking lots, etc. Barnstable started with 4 fixed sites and added 10 bus stop sites where the bus stops to feed for 20-30 minutes on a consistent daily schedule.
- Wherever possible, sites should offer drive thru pickup, so caregivers don't have to get out of cars.
- All sites should offer mobile to door service for children who are homebound or quarantined. These meals area also reimbursable under new 3/18/20 guidance from USDA.
- To increase participation, use social media. See this [video](#) with Dennis-Yarmouth Food Service Director, Rooney Powers, as she discusses her drive through and door-to-door programs. Create your own video and share it broadly. Please see other videos on the [Eos Foundation website](#) and [Facebook page @EosFoundation1](#).



Community-Wide Children's Meals Grant Application

The Eos Foundation is committed to working with School Nutrition Directors to ensure the nutritional safety net for children. Leveraging USDA reimbursed meals is our top priority. To help you maximize meals for children (0-18 or 0-21, depending on the emergency feeding program your district utilizes), we are making emergency grants of up to \$10,000 per district. Monies may be used for non-food costs, primarily equipment, so that you can increase the number of meals you produce and distribute. In addition, we are also encouraging everyone to provide mobile meals in response to the state's shelter in place guidance. .

If you're interested, please email silbert@eosfoundation.org or call with questions at 508-221-8130. Here is what we will need to know to from you:

1. What meal delivery service are you operating now in response to the C-19 school closures? How many children are you feeding? What mobile meals solutions are you operating and how many children are you reaching via them?
2. How do you anticipate modifying/evolving this service? How many more children do you plan to reach?
3. What resources do you need to maintain or expand your C-19 meal operations? What is the grant amount you are requesting and how will those funds be used?