# Eos Foundation’s Community-Wide Children’s Meals Grant Program

The Eos Foundation is offering grants of up to $10,000 to Massachusetts school districts and youth agencies feeding children through the **USDA’s emergency meals program which reimburses the costs of food** for free meals to kids 0-18 through the Summer Food Service Program, or 0-21 if your district uses the Seamless Summer Option. **Eos can also provide technical assistance to help you think about ways to maximize the numbers of children participating.** For example, if your school typically serves 6oo free/reduced meal-eligible kids lunch when in session, we aim to help you serve at least that many kids, if not more, during the closure. **Monies are intended for equipment and supplies**. All districts **must** provide for home delivery for students who need it. We have videos and other resources on our [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/EosFoundation1/) @EosFoundation1 and [website](http://eosfoundation.org/), in addition to the tips below. To submit your application or for more information, please contact emergencygrants@eosfoundation.org or 508-430-8130.

# 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.
* **On Fridays, sites should provide families 6 meals** to cover both a breakfast and a lunch on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

# Kids do not need to be present for parents/guardians to pick up the meals.

* These are all considered “Open Sites” which means any child (or parent/guardian) 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.
* Make sure communications are clear to include **all children 0-18** (or 0-21 for SSO). Some districts have mistakenly publicized the program as for “school age children.”
* To reach the 0-5 population school districts can connect with child care centers in their community. At the Mass Department of Early Education and Care (DEEC) website, you can access lists of licensed programs by town or zip code. Lists include contact person, telephone number and email: <https://eeclead.force.com/EEC_ChildCareSearch>. Send them an email to ask them to alert their families to the meal program.
* Some sites have experienced low uptake. 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 hand out meals for 20 -30 minutes on a consistent daily schedule.
* Wherever possible, sites should offer drive-thru pickup, so caregivers can stay in cars.
* All sites should offer mobile to door service for children who are homebound. These meals are also reimbursable under new 3/18/20 guidance from USDA.
* To increase participation, use social media with eye-catching graphics, multiple times over the course of a week. See attached slide presentation for ideas and this [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vad50A3leIA) with Dennis-Yarmouth Food Service Director, Rooney Powers, as she discusses her drive-thru and door-to-programs. Create your own video and share it broadly. Please see other videos on the [Eos Foundation website](http://eosfoundation.org/) and [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/EosFoundation1/) @EosFoundation1.

# Community-Wide Children’s Meals Grant Application

Please consult with your district’s school nutrition director (SND) when completing this application and submit to emergencygrants@eosfoundation.org and call 508-430-8130 with questions. Grant funding is intended for equipment and supplies needed to reach more children with emergency meals. Eos does not fund staff, food costs, or vehicle leases.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **District Name** |  |
| **Applicant Name****title, best phone, email** |  |
| **District SND****name, email, and phone** |  |
| **District Superintendent name and email** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Are you Self-Op or Management Company, if Management Co, which one?** |  |
| **Which USDA emergency meal program are you operating (SFSP, SSO, or other?)** |  |

1. Did anyone else in your district serve as an SFSP sponsor last summer (2019) and are they running an emergency feeding program now, too?
2. Tell us about your sites. For example, how many sites do you have? Where are they? Are you delivering to any housing complexes? Are they walk up or drive through? Are you using bus stops? What days of the week are you open and what are the hours?
3. Do you provide weekend meals on Fridays, and if so, how many? If not, please explain?
4. Do families have to sign up for the meals, or are they available to all?
5. Do you allow parents/guardians to pick up meals on behalf of their kids without needing to bring the children along? This is highly encouraged due to social distancing.
6. Are you offering mobile meals for those who can’t get to a site? How many on average each day?
7. How many **individual children** (not meals) are you feeding on a typical day (not a Friday)? How does this compare to the number of F/R kids in your district? Please share approximate school enrollment and % F/R. Do you feel there is a larger market of kids/parents than who you are currently serving?
8. How have you thought about reaching children not in your schools, especially those aged 0-5? If you are running the SSO, how are you reaching those aged 19-21?
9. How have you marketed your meal program? Are you coordinating with your district’s Communications and Family Engagement teams to get the word out, particularly via social media? See attached slide presentation for ideas.
10. What resources do you need to expand your C-19 meal operations? What is the grant amount you are requesting and how will those funds be used? Please provide a basic budget. See example.

*Sample budget request: We need to expand our capacity to package, store and transport meals for distribution. To do this we need more coolers, ice packs, and cases of the plastic bags we use to package the meals.*

*84* ***coolers*** *at $30 each = $2,520*

*4 cases of* ***ice packs*** *at $114 each = $456 plus approximately $35 shipping = $491*

*26 cases of* ***meal bags*** *at $120 each = $3,120*

*52 units of* ***tape*** *to seal the meal bags at $3.70 each = $192
Total request: $6,323*