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# PRESS RELEASE

## Healthy Meals for Kids Available at Various Locations

*Families will be able to get meals for kids starting in October*

(Fresno, CA) – Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC) has provided healthy grab-and-go meals for kids during the pandemic at various locations, including 5 locations in Fresno with our Food Express Bus. Serving food has been a hit, with nearly 159,594 meals distributed since April 6.

Starting October 5, through December 31, 2020, Fresno EOC will be serving grab-and-go meals at 12 locations across Fresno, Madera, and Tulare counties. The distribution sites include the Food Express Bus and rural communities. View all of the sites here: [www.fresnoeoc.org/food-services](http://www.fresnoeoc.org/food-services).

“It’s unacceptable that any children in our community are going hungry,” says Jon Escobar, Fresno EOC Food Services Director. “We live in the ‘agricultural capital of the world,’ and we want to make sure that those youth who rely on free or reduced-price school meals continue to get fed when school is off-campus, and they lack access to meals.

According to California Food Policy Advocates 2019 data, 111,000 kids residing in Fresno County are food insecure. When regular school is not in session, these children may miss out on access to nutritious meals that combat hunger, food insecurity, and help prevent obesity.

Fresno EOC prepares and provides healthy breakfast and lunch meals, which must meet strict United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and California Department of Education (CDE) nutrition guidelines. These meals can be consumed at home. We encourage that meals be picked up by parents/guardians.

Meals will be made available to all children, without any eligibility documentation, who are 18 years of age and younger. The agency does not discriminate against any person because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. During the pandemic, meals will be available for families to grab and go. We encourage just one family member to come to pick up the meals when possible. Kids do not need to be present to receive the meals.

Fresno EOC began the traditional Summer Food Service Program in 1991 with only two sites. Last summer, the program distributed food to 33 sites, including both urban and rural locations. Fresno EOC has since expanded the program to provide meals during winter break and during the current pandemic.

## About Fresno EOC

Established in 1964, Fresno EOC is a non-profit Community Action Agency that provides opportunities, strengthens self-sufficiency, and offers support for all people. We listen to the needs of the communities we serve to create effective programs and services. Fresno EOC is at the forefront, continuing the war on poverty with over 35 programs dedicated to getting people the help they need to achieve their goals.

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Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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