

December 2020

Free, Healthy Meals for Kids – Now Thru June 2021

Families can pick up grab and go meals at 12 locations in Fresno, Madera, and Tulare counties

(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 251,922 meals distributed since April 6.

Due to COVID-19, our grab-and-go meals have been extended. From October 5, through June 30, 2021, Fresno EOC will be serving grab-and-go meals at 13 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.

“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 school year in the current pandemic.

About Fresno EOC

Established in 1965, 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. Our Food Services program provides meals to school-aged kids throughout the summer and winter months to combat childhood hunger.

USDA Program Information

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