
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 14, 2022

PRESS RELEASE

Free and Healthy Meals for Kids Available at Various Locations in Fresno County

*Children ages 1-18 will be able to get free meals during the
Winter Break from December 19 through January 6.*

(Fresno, CA) – Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (Fresno EOC) Food Services will provide free and healthy meals for children at various locations across Fresno County during the winter break. Starting December 19, two of our colorful Food Express Buses will deliver to 5 rural locations in Fresno County and 5 locations in the City of Fresno. Lunches will be provided through January 6, 2023. There will be no service December 26 or January 2.

According to the latest data from Feeding America, more than 64,000 children in Fresno County were food insecure in 2020. When regular school is not in session, some children may not have access to nutritious meals. Jon Escobar, Fresno EOC Food Services Director says, “We saw a need and launched the mobile winter meals program in 2019. Last year, we served 1,355 meals to kids during the three-week period. We want to make sure they continue to get fed when schools are closed.”

Fresno EOC prepares and provides healthy lunches which meet strict United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and California Department of Education (CDE) nutrition guidelines.

Meals will be made available to all children 1-18 years of age without any eligibility documentation. Our agency does not discriminate against any person because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. You can view all of the sites here: www.fresnoeoc.org/food-services. According to guidelines from the Fresno County Department of Public Health, face masks are not required upon entrance to the bus.

The Winter Meals for Kids program is in addition to the year-round [After School Meal Service](#) run by Fresno EOC Food Services. Meals are also provided by Fresno EOC Food Services during the summer break when school is not in session, starting in mid-June and continuing through early August. Fresno EOC began administering the traditional Summer Food Service Program in 1991 with only two sites. By the summer of 2020, the program distributed food to 33 sites, including both urban and rural locations. Fresno EOC continues to seek opportunities to expand services.



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USDA Program Information

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis on race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, and reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, and American Sign Language) should contact the responsible State or local Agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online, at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

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. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

[About Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission \(EOC\)](#)

Established in 1965, Fresno EOC is a non-profit Community Action Agency which 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 more than 35 programs dedicated to getting people the help they need to achieve their goals.

[About Fresno EOC Food Services](#)

Our program provides healthy and nutritious meals to preschool and school-age children, youth and young adults, seniors, and organizations requiring catering services. Fresno EOC Food Services established operations in 1965. At its inception, Food Services served lunches to Head Start children and added the National Meals on Wheels Program in 1972. In the beginning, meals were prepared in satellite kitchens within the City of Fresno, but by October of 1985, the vision of constructing a central kitchen was realized and the state-of-art Food Preparation Center (FPC) was opened. Food Services served 2,000 meals a day when the FPC opened and has grown to more than 7,000 meals daily.

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