

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Family and Social Services

SACHI A. HAMAI
Chief Executive Officer



DATE: Wednesday, April 22, 2020
TIME: 1:30 PM

DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF ALL COUNTY BUILDINGS, MEETING PARTICIPANTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL NEED TO CALL IN TO PARTICIPATE:

Teleconference Call-In Number: (323) 776-6996/ Conference ID: 747311624#

AGENDA

Members of the Public may address agenda item. Three (3) minutes are allowed for each item.

- I. Call to Order
- II. **Presentation/Discussion Items:**
 - a. **Office of Emergency Management/ Center for Strategic Partnership/ Department of Public Social Services/ Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services:** Ensuring Food Access During COVID-19 Emergency.
- III. Items continued from a previous meeting of the Board of Supervisors or from a previous FSS Agenda Review meeting.
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Adjournment

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
CORONAVIRUS BUSINESS OPERATIONS PLAN**

Program	Approved State or Federal Waivers
CalFresh	1. CalFresh interviews can be conducted via phone with telephonic signatures. This is current policy.
	2. Accepting self-certification for photo identification, residency, income and expense requirements.
	3. CalFresh applications may be approved without an interview if identify has been verified, mandatory verifications received, and the application is complete.
	4. SAR 7 and Recertifications are waived for the months of March, April and May. CalFresh participants' benefits will continue without interruption for this period.
	5. Provisional Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) – Available to children who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have been out of school for 5 consecutive days. ▪ Receive free or reduced meals. ▪ Benefits will be available for March, April and May. ▪ State will run data match between the Department of Education against the DPSS CalFresh and Medi-Cal Data. ▪ Families will receive \$5 per child per day (value of school meal) or \$100 per child per month, regardless of immigration status. ▪ State will be responsible for managing this program (outside of LRS) and will be responsible for delivering the EBT Cards to families (there are questions regarding how they will provide these benefits to homeless families).
	6. Provisional Emergency Allotments Active CalFresh households will have their CalFresh benefits increased to the maximum benefit amount for their household size for March and April 2020. March 2020 automatic increase took place on April 12, 2020. April 2020 benefit increase will take place on May 10, 2020.
	7. EBT Online Purchasing On April 28, 2020, customers will be able to order home delivered groceries from Walmart and Amazon.
DENIED WAIVERS	
	1. Waive Student Eligibility Rule for students who attend college more than half-time.
	2. Increase the Emergency Allotment to exceed the maximum benefit payment for a household size.
PENDING WAIVERS	
	1. Expand Restaurant Meals Program to all CalFresh customers. Currently this service is only for elderly, disabled and homeless customers.
	2. Exclude Unemployment Insurance Benefits from consideration when determining the CalFresh allotment.

Feeding Task Force – Executive Summary

Mission Areas:

Develop a coordinated countywide response to food insecurity due to the COVID-19 pandemic in order to prevent or mitigate potential impacts, such as hunger, developmental and academic delays among children and increased risk of depression and chronic disease among adults.

Objectives:

1. Identify and track food insecure populations and food service needs across a City/County/LAHSAs/nonprofit programs
2. Address barriers to the implementation or expansion of existing food assistance initiatives and develop innovative methods for getting healthy food to people in need during the pandemic
3. Promote utilization of food resources – especially existing food assistance programs – to the public and food insecure individuals who have not previously utilized them
4. Monitor the food supply chain and make plans to address risks/weaknesses
5. As needed, develop new food assistance initiatives, potentially leveraging underutilized institutional food providers and/or food service workers to help feed food insecure or housebound Angelenos

Taskforce Members:

- County Departments and Agencies
 - o CEO Sustainability (CSO)
 - o Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)
 - o Department of Public Health (DPH)
 - o Workplace Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS)
 - o Center for Strategic Partnership (CSP)
 - o County Emergency Operations Center (CEOC)
- External Partners
 - o Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)
 - o 211 Los Angeles
 - o City of Los Angeles
 - o Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
 - o American Red Cross (ARC)
 - o CalFund LA N Sync
 - o United Way

Current Status:

PROJECT/ACTIVITY	STATUS	NOTES
Food Security Taskforce (FST)	Ongoing	Creating working groups on youth meals, data/reporting, supply chain, and communications. Coordination with school feeding programs began on March 6 th and Senior Feeding missions began on March 10 th ,

PROJECT/ACTIVITY	STATUS	NOTES
		2020. Both were integrated into the feeding taskforce.
Establish Feeding Branch Organization Chart and staffing	In progress	Added additional staff to Feeding Branch to manage Food Supply Chain and Philanthropic Relations.
Establish Food Webpages for County COVID site	In progress	Site map, look/feel design, map hub, and content complete. Countywide Communications building site with launch date for week of April 20.
Establish additional food distribution locations	Ongoing	Held food distribution event in Bell 4/16 and provided boxes to 1700 households totaling over 60,000 pounds. Distributions scheduled for week of 4/20 in East LA, Downey, and Norwalk. Identifying additional sites for future distributions and seeking DSWs to support food distribution events. Identified gap in grocery delivery programs and working to establish new delivery options.
Meal Delivery	Ongoing	Identified gap in meal delivery programs (primarily in unserved populations) and working to expand existing programs or create new meal delivery programs.
Assess County departments to identify all food-related program, needs and available resources	Complete	Compiling data and preparing summary of key findings now.
Assess community food insecurity	In progress	Partnered with USC and DPH to include food security questions on longitudinal polling survey being conducted by USC weekly.
Establish data collection, analysis, and reporting program	In progress	Working with CIO to develop standardized data collection and reporting program to provide CEOC with data on demand for food programs, including changes in enrollment for CalFresh, WIC, and Elder Nutrition Program, food and meals distributed, and other metrics.
State MSA for LA Region Food Services	In progress	State developed master service agreement with Hospitality Training Academy to provide food services.

Summary of Preliminary Food Security Assessment Findings:

	Program	Assessment
1.	CalFresh	<u>Lead</u> : DPSS

		<p><u>Program Type</u>: federally-funded entitlement program providing cash-equivalent for food expenses</p> <p><u>Target population</u>: Low-income individuals (unavailable to those who are undocumented)</p> <p><u>Standard level of service</u>: 50,000 applications monthly (average of 1 million participants at any given time)</p> <p><u>Changes in demand/participation</u>: approx. doubling of applications</p> <p><u>COVID-related changes in operations</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ in-person interview no longer required ○ additional allotments for various participants <p><u>Challenges in meeting need</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ fear of public charge rule among non-citizens ○ stigma and/or lack of awareness among newly-eligible individuals
2.	Elderly Nutrition Program	<p><u>Lead</u>: WDACS (oversees program delivered by partners across the county)</p> <p><u>Program Type</u>: Free/subsidized congregate and home-delivered meals</p> <p><u>Target population</u>: Adults age 60+</p> <p><u>Standard level of service</u>: Assessing</p> <p><u>Changes in demand/participation</u>: approx. 50% more requests</p> <p><u>COVID-related changes in operations</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ congregate meals settings are now closed and the program is transitioning to “all-delivery” ○ they’ve expanded the program to Adult Protective Services clients (adults under 60 with disabilities) <p><u>Challenges in meeting demand</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ strict requirements for delivery staffing (ex: background checks) and equipment (ex: trucks with heating/cooling capability) ○ maximum of 40 miles per client per month is limiting for rural populations
3.	School Breakfast and Lunches	<p><u>Lead</u>: LACOE (works with all 80 school districts across the county)</p> <p><u>Program Type</u>: free/subsidized meals for students</p> <p><u>Target population</u>: all low-income students</p> <p><u>Standard level of service</u>: approx. 1 million students</p> <p><u>Changes in demand/participation</u>: reaching approx. 25% of standard student lunch population</p> <p><u>COVID-related changes in operations</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ all schools closed, but they must still make meals available to students ○ meals are free for all students, not just low-income ○ most school districts now providing meals through grab-and-go service, though schools can deliver or mail meals ○ caretakers can pick food up without children present <p><u>Challenges in meeting demand</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Financial uncertainty around reimbursement

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safety concerns ○ Lack of important supplies (PPE, canopies) ○ Supply chain disruptions create inability to meet standard nutritional requirements in certain districts ○ Anticipated reductions in staffing
4.	<p>Shelter Meals / other food options offered via homeless services network</p>	<p><u>Lead:</u> Food Resources Working Group (convened by LAHSA and United Way)</p> <p><u>Program Type:</u> Meals (mostly), groceries for people in Board & Care facilities</p> <p><u>Target population:</u> Clients of various homeless services, particularly those residing in gov't-funded shelters such as DMH clinics, interim housing, assisted living, and clinics/hotels/motels being used for COVID isolation and quarantine</p> <p><u>Standard level of service:</u></p> <p><u>Changes in demand/participation:</u> new shelter sites/15,000 rooms being made available</p> <p><u>COVID-related changes in operations:</u></p> <p><u>Challenges in meeting demand:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ securing inexpensive meals at scale ○ lack of connection to shelters / homeless service providers not funded by gov't
5.	<p>Charitable food distribution</p>	<p><u>Lead:</u> LA Regional Food Bank (distributing food to hundreds of pantries across the county)</p> <p><u>Program Type:</u> grocery (mostly) and meal distribution</p> <p><u>Target population:</u> all low-income individuals</p> <p><u>Standard level of service:</u> 300K people per month</p> <p><u>Changes in demand/participation:</u> increase of approx. 50%</p> <p><u>COVID-related changes in operations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some pantries closing due to lack of volunteers and/or COVID exposure ○ Expansion of drive-through pantries ○ Piloting of home delivery ○ Partnering with senior centers and school districts to supplement their food offerings <p><u>Challenges in meeting demand:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lack of volunteers at some partner pantries ○ Some supply chain interruptions ○ Need for more delivery trucks (refrigerated preferred)

Organization Chart:

