

# GREAT PLATES DELIVERED

## Resources for Transition Planning

The Great Plates Delivered Program utilized a creative and innovative approach to address food insecurity among older Californians amid the pandemic. It leverages federal funds and partnerships across state departments to create local programs that are administered by local governments across California. The program was designed and implemented as a temporary, emergency relief effort to reinforce social distancing measures, minimize hospital surge, and address food insecurity among vulnerable populations.

This program was created to provide meals and protect older vulnerable Californians from potential COVID exposure while stimulating the local economy, supporting jobs for local food businesses, fostering collaboration between local governments and their older adult community, and strengthening partnerships at a federal, state, and local level to combat the devastating effects from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This document serves as an informational resource for participating local jurisdictions as they begin, continue, and formalize their transition planning process. For additional questions regarding this resource, please contact the Cal OES Great Plates Delivered Team at [GreatPlates@soc.caloes.ca.gov](mailto:GreatPlates@soc.caloes.ca.gov). The following document is intended for informational purposes only and consists of information that can be publicly obtained.

## Local Administrators

The prevalence of food insecurity has significantly increased in the state of California as a result of the Stay at Home Order, social distancing policies, and economic disruption brought forth by the pandemic. Older adults face an even greater challenge to obtaining meals as many may be:

- Fearful of risk exposure when going to the grocery store;
- Unable to attend group meals at senior centers or faith-based institutions due to social distancing; and
- Without the assistance of family or neighbors to provide meals due to the Stay at Home Order.

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Your jurisdiction has met this challenge in a unique way by administering the Great Plates Delivered Program. Your efforts have provided meals to older adults in your community and supported local food providers and agricultural workers who have closed or are struggling to remain open due to COVID-19 mitigation tactics.

The following resources below have been reviewed by FEMA and partnering State agencies.<sup>1</sup> It includes information for general guidance purposes and has been compiled with publicly available information that is also available on FEMA's Recovery & Economic Support Resource Roadmaps website. As your jurisdiction begins the transition process, our office recommends local administrators to utilize the following universal funding resources to meet daily nutrition needs:

- [Coronavirus Relief Fund](#) (Treasury)
- [State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund](#) (Treasury)
- [The Emergency Food Assistance Program](#) (USDA/FNS)
- [National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging \(NRCNA\)](#) (ACL)
- [Resource Roadmaps for COVID-19](#) (FEMA)

Local food businesses and food distributors, including wholesale and retail outlets, may utilize the following universal funding resources to prevent food supply interruptions:

- [Coronavirus Relief Fund](#) (Treasury)
- [State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund](#) (Treasury)
- [COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan \(sba.gov\)](#) (SBA)
- [Farm Loan Programs \(usda.gov\)](#) (USDA/FSA)
- [Paycheck Protection Program \(sba.gov\)](#) (SBA)
- [EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance | U.S. Economic Development Administration](#) (DOC)
- [Micro-Grants for Food Security Program | Agricultural Marketing Service \(usda.gov\)](#) (USDA)
- [Coronavirus Resources for Restaurants Reopening](#) (CRA)
- [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\) and Employee Retention Tax Credit \(ERTC\)](#) (CRA)
- [Additional Resources for Employers and Workers in Response to COVID-19](#) (LWDA)

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema\\_covid-19-food-nutrition-resource-roadmap-version2.0\\_05-05-2021.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_covid-19-food-nutrition-resource-roadmap-version2.0_05-05-2021.pdf)

Community-based organizations, food businesses, and food distributors providing food-related services may review the following documents from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for additional information to help guide how their organizations can protect individuals and slow the spread of the virus and the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans:

- [Considerations for Community-Based Organizations | CDC](#)
- [Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) | FDA](#)
- [Food and Agriculture: Considerations for Prioritization of PPE, Cloth Face Coverings, Disinfectants, and Sanitation Supplies During the COVID-19 Pandemic | FDA](#)
- [Workplaces and Businesses | COVID-19 | CDC](#)
- [Meat and Poultry Processing Workers and Employers | CDC](#)
- [Protecting Seafood Processing Workers from COVID-19 | CDC](#)
- [USDA ERS - Farm Labor](#)
- [Food Loss and Waste | USDA](#)
- [Local Foods, Local Places | Smart Growth | US EPA](#)
- [Sustainable Management of Food | US EPA](#)
- [Recycling and Sustainable Management of Food During the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Public Health Emergency | Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) | US EPA](#)
- [Considerations for Restaurants and Bars | COVID-19 | CDC](#)
- [About the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program | Sustainable Marketplace: Greener Products and Services | US EPA](#)
- [Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025 and Online Materials | Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#)

FEMA has also provided an additional resource for local administrators interested in learning more about FEMA policy, FEMA-PA Program eligibility, and EPA guidance on food safety and environmental health:

- [COVID-19 Pandemic Safe Opening and Operation Work Eligible for Public Assistance Interim Policy \(fema.gov\)](#)
- [PA Eligibility Policy for COVID \(FP 104-009-19\) \(fema.gov\)](#)
- [Frequent Questions Related to Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) | Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) | US EPA](#)

The California Department of Aging (CDA) administers programs that serve older adults, adults with disabilities, family caregivers, and residents in long-term care facilities throughout the State. These programs are funded through the federal Older Americans Act, the Older Californians Act, and through the Medi-Cal program.

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The CDA contracts with the network of 33 Area Agencies on Aging, who directly manage a wide array of federal and state-funded services that provide meals, help finding employment; supportive services to assist older individuals as well as younger adults with disabilities to live as independently as possible; promote healthy aging and community involvement; and support family members in their vital care giving role. The list below includes additional information helpful in serving older adults:

- [Congregate Nutrition | California Department of Aging - State of California](#)
- [Program Narrative & Fact Sheets - Home-Delivered Nutrition | California Department of Aging - State of California](#)
- [Food & Nutrition - Consumer | California Department of Aging - State of California](#)
- [Nutrition & Exercise \(CalFresh Healthy Living\) - Consumer | California Department of Aging - State of California](#)

## USDA Programs to Fund Food Distribution

Program/Organization Name	Eligible Recipients	Description
<a href="#">Community Food Projects (CFP) Competitive Grants Program</a>	Public food program service providers, tribal organization, and private non-profit entities	CFPs are designed to create community-based food projects with objectives, activities and outcomes that are in alignment with Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program (CFPCGP) primary goals. The purpose of a Planning Project (PP) is to complete a plan toward the improvement of community food security in keeping with the primary goals of the CFPCGP. PPs are to focus on a defined community and describe in detail the activities and outcomes of the planning project. <i>Although the FY21 deadline has passed, this is an annual program</i>

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<p><a href="#"><u>Emergency Food Assistance Program</u></a></p>	<p>Public or non-profit organizations. The <a href="#"><u>California Department of Social Services</u></a> is one of the State distributing agencies that can provide the food they receive from USDA to local agencies they select.</p>	<p>The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) purchases a variety of nutritious, high-quality USDA Foods, and makes those foods available to State Distributing Agencies. States provide the food to local agencies that they have selected, usually food banks and community action agencies, which distribute the foods directly to low-income households.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)</u></a></p>	<p>Public or non-profit organizations. The <a href="#"><u>California Department of Social Services</u></a> is one of the State distributing agencies that can provide the food they receive from USDA to local agencies they select.</p>	<p>CSFP is administered at the federal level by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Through CSFP, USDA distributes both food and administrative funds to participating states and Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs). CSFP food packages do not provide a complete diet, but rather are good sources of the nutrients typically lacking in the diets of the beneficiary population</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Community Facilities Direct Loan &amp; Grant Program</u></a></p>	<p>Public or non-profit organizations, and federally recognized tribes</p>	<p>This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial, or business undertakings.</p>

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## CRA Programs to Fund Food Distribution

Program/Organization Name	Eligible Recipients	Description
<a href="#">California Restaurant Association (CRA) Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF)</a>	Eligible restaurants may receive a federal grant in the amount of their pandemic-related revenue loss. Non-profit organizations are not eligible.	The Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF,) which will provide much-needed grants to restaurants nationwide, was passed in early 2021 as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. The minimum grant amount of \$1,000 for eligible entities. And the maximum grant amount is \$5M per location.

## USD-HHS Programs to Fund Food Distribution

Program/Organization Name	Eligible Recipients	Description
<a href="#">Older Americans Act (OAA) Nutrition Program, ACL's Administration on Aging (AoA)</a>	Programs target adults age 60 and older who are in greatest social and economic need, with particular attention to the following groups.	Through the Older Americans Act (OAA) Nutrition Program, ACL's Administration on Aging (AoA) provides grants to states to help support nutrition services for older people throughout the country. These services include both home-delivered meals and healthy meals served in group settings, such as senior centers and faith-based locations. In addition, the programs provide a range of services including nutrition screening, assessment, education, and counseling. Nutrition services also provide an important link to other supportive in-home and community-based supports such as homemaker and home-health aide services, transportation, physical activity and chronic disease self-management programs, home repair and modification, and falls prevention programs.

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<p><a href="#">Older Americans Act (OAA) Nutrition Services Incentive Program</a></p>	<p>Programs target adults age 60 and older who are in greatest social and economic need, with particular attention to the following groups.</p>	<p>Provides grants to states, territories, and eligible Tribal organizations to support the Congregate and Home-Delivered Nutrition Programs by providing an incentive to serve more meals. Grantees can choose to receive their grant as cash, commodities (food), or a combination of cash and commodities. Please note that the only NSIP requirements a provider must follow are in the OAA, Section 311. Previous guidance provided by other federal agencies is no longer required. Visit OAA Nutrition Services website for additional information.</p>
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## Other Grant Programs to Fund Food Distribution

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Program/Organization Name	Eligible Recipients	Description
<p><a href="#">Aetna Foundation Healthiest Cities and Counties Challenge</a></p>	<p>Local nonprofit organizations that work with underserved, low-income and minority populations in the continental United States. Federally recognized Indian tribes are also eligible to apply.</p>	<p>The Aetna Foundation, together with the American Public Health Association and the National Association of Counties, announced the organizations this year who have been selected to receive a grant as part of the Healthiest Cities &amp; Counties Challenge to support communities that are changing the way they work together across sectors to reduce disparities in chronic disease outcomes. This grant program will award a total of \$2 million to teams of organizations that will work together to change the food access and health care systems in their communities and engage community residents as leaders in their work.</p>

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<p><a href="#">Cooperative Development Foundation - Disaster Recovery Fund</a></p>	<p>Nonprofit Organizations, Territory, Tribe Cooperatives and cooperative support organizations.</p>	<p>The Cooperative Development Foundation (CDF) promotes community, economic, and social development through cooperative enterprise. CDF does this by: a) raising and distributing funds for economic and community development projects; b) building partnerships that create cooperative solutions to today's economic problems; and c) raising awareness of the role cooperatives play in the nation's and the world's economies. CDF's resources are used to support cooperative development through direct expenditure and grants and loans to cooperatives, cooperative organizations, and groups forming cooperatives.</p>
<p><a href="#">Clif Bar Family Foundation - FY21 Small Grants Program</a></p>	<p>Nonprofit Organizations U.S.-based 501(c)(3) organizations (or groups with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor) are eligible for their small grant programs</p>	<p>The Clif Bar Family Foundation is offering grants through the Small Grants Program to non-profit grassroots organizations that have the ability to engage local groups, positively impact their communities, and focus most of their resources on useful and positive actions.</p>
<p><a href="#">Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People - COVID-19 Grant Program</a></p>	<p>Local Government &amp; Authority, Nonprofit Organizations Limited SDOP COVID-19 funding available for community organizations/groups (not individuals) in the United States working with low income communities</p>	<p>The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People participates in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people who are seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression, and injustice. Program measures include the following: Enhance quality of life includes measures of change and improvement across a broad spectrum of issues including health, housing, food security, transportation, safety, etc.</p>

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## Other Nutrition Assistance Programs

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Program/Organization Name	Eligible Recipients	Description
<a href="#">Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</a>	Individuals with low-income who meet federal income eligibility rules.	SNAP provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency. Interested individuals must apply online on their website.
<a href="#">Meals on Wheels</a>	Adults 60 and over, although age requirements can vary by program and areas served.	Meals on Wheels operates in virtually every community in America through their network of more than 5,000 independently run local programs. While the diversity of each program's services and operations may vary based on the needs and resources of their communities, they are all committed to supporting their senior neighbors to live healthier and more nourished lives in their own homes.
<a href="#">Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)</a>	Income-eligible households living on Indian reservations and to Native American households residing in designated areas near reservations	Many households participate in FDPIR as an alternative to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) because they do not have easy access to SNAP offices or authorized food stores. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administers FDPIR at the federal level. The program is administered locally by either Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) or an agency of a state government.

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<p><a href="#">AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companion Program</a></p>	<p>National or local nonprofit, School, government agency, faith-based or community organization, you can apply for resources through one of our programs.</p>	<p>The Senior Companion Program provides grants to organizations with a dual purpose: to engage older adults, particularly those with limited incomes, in volunteer service to meet critical community needs; and to provide a high quality experience that will enrich the lives of the volunteers. The AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in this program provide supportive, individualized services to help older adults with special needs maintain their dignity and independence.</p>
<p><a href="#">Project Open Hand</a></p>	<p>For Seniors and Adults (60+) with Disabilities (age 18-59) and people living with critical illness at locations throughout San Francisco and Alameda County.</p>	<p>Since 1998, Project Open Hand has served nutritious meals - breakfast and lunch - to San Francisco seniors and adults with disabilities at 15 community sites located across San Francisco. Project Open Hand's nutritious meals and community site activities can improve health outcomes by lowering risks for disease, depression, and cognitive decline. Seniors (60 years or older) and adults with disabilities (18-59 years old) are eligible for the Community Nutrition Program.</p>
<p><a href="#">Feeding America's Food Bank Database</a></p>	<p>For individuals interested in contacting their local community food bank</p>	<p>The Feeding America nationwide network of food banks secures and distributes 4.3 billion meals each year through food pantries and meal programs throughout the United States and leads the nation to engage in the fight against hunger. Interested individuals can visit the Feeding America website to find the closest food bank in their area.</p>

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<p><a href="#">California Food Pantry and Food Bank Database</a></p>	<p>Individuals interested in seeking free food resources.</p>	<p>A database that lists California food pantries and food banks throughout the United States.</p>
<p><a href="#">TRIO Community Meals</a></p>	<p>Individuals must complete an online form and meet eligibility requirements.</p>	<p>TRIO Community Meals support the unique mission of each senior nutrition program by customizing congregate and home-delivered meal programs that optimize Menu Development, Meal Production and Logistics. TRIO Community Meals Menu Development offers a unique solution for each client. From the type of meals – hot, fresh or frozen – to regional menu preferences, menus are created specifically for each program. Meal Production can take place in a TRIO-owned kitchen or a client-owned kitchen. The TRIO Logistics team delivers to congregate sites and homebound senior homes, as well as provides packaged meals for delivery by agency volunteers.</p>

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