

Emergency Meals-to-You  
March 26, 2020

In partnership with USDA and state agencies, the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty (BCHP) has implemented the Emergency Meals-to-You program to provide shelf-stable, easily prepared, kid-friendly meals to students during unexpected school closures lasting **four weeks or longer**.

At **no cost** to the school district, BCHP provides administrative support and technical assistance, and connects school districts with vendors who have the capacity to purchase, package, and deliver a box of meals containing 10 meals that meet nutrition requirements. **This program is primarily directed towards rural families**, for whom traditional SFSP/SSO service options are a challenge due to distance and transportation, but can be adapted for other challenges, like quarantines or natural disasters.

This delivery method will be implemented on a first come first serve basis. Districts that wish to participate should meet the following criteria:

- Be a school food authority **in good standing** with the state agency
- Have school campuses located in a **rural county**. Rural designations can be found through:
  - The National Center of Education Statistics (nces.ed.gov)
  - USDA rural designation (fns.usda.gov/rural-designation).
- Have announced a school closure lasting **four weeks or longer**
- Have participating school campuses with **50% or greater free or reduced-price eligibility**

Districts interested in applying should visit: <https://mealstoyou.org/emergency-meals-to-you-school-districts/>.

Once districts complete the application, this is the process:

- Districts send the application to their state agency contacts listed on mealstoyou.org.
- The state agency will briefly look over the application and ensure districts meet the criteria listed above.
- The state agency will then send the application to our Meals to You team.
- Our team will reach out to establish what method of enrollment the district would like to use. There are two methods of enrollment and all material needed will be provided (script and language)
  - Districts provide the information and families sign up individually through <https://mealstoyou.org/>
    - Once families' applications are received our team will double check the information with the district's database.
  - Districts can start a call center approach (script and what information is needed will be provided)
    - This method encourages using FNS staff to call eligible families and have them opt-in, compiling a spread sheet/roster of families, and sending to the Meals to You team directly
    - This method tends to be a little more expedient, but please use the method that is best for the district and their team.
- Once we have confirmed the addresses of the families the vendor will mail a box with two weeks of shelf-stable breakfasts and lunches.
- The program will last until the school district returns to school or through the end of the school year.