



<https://rems.ed.gov>

Ensuring Continuity of Feeding and Food Distribution During the COVID-19 Pandemic

2:00 p.m. EST/1:00 p.m. CST/
12:00 p.m. MST/11:00 a.m. PST/
10:00 a.m. AKST/9:00 a.m. HST



U.S. Department of Education
Office of Safe and Supportive Schools
(OSSS)

Webinar Housekeeping

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FILES



WEB LINKS



Q&A



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COMPUTER ONLY.**

Questions...



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Q&A Pod

DURING



Send to our
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AFTER

Presenters

Madeline Sullivan, Office of Safe and Supportive Schools, U.S. Department of Education

Janelle W. Hughes, REMS TA Center

Tina Namian, FNS Child Nutrition Programs, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Dr. Linette Dodson, School Nutrition Program, Georgia Department of Education

Brenna Morse, Tennessee Department of Education

Jeff Gale, Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning, New Jersey Department of Education

Jennifer Weber, Child Nutrition Programs, Oklahoma State Department of Education

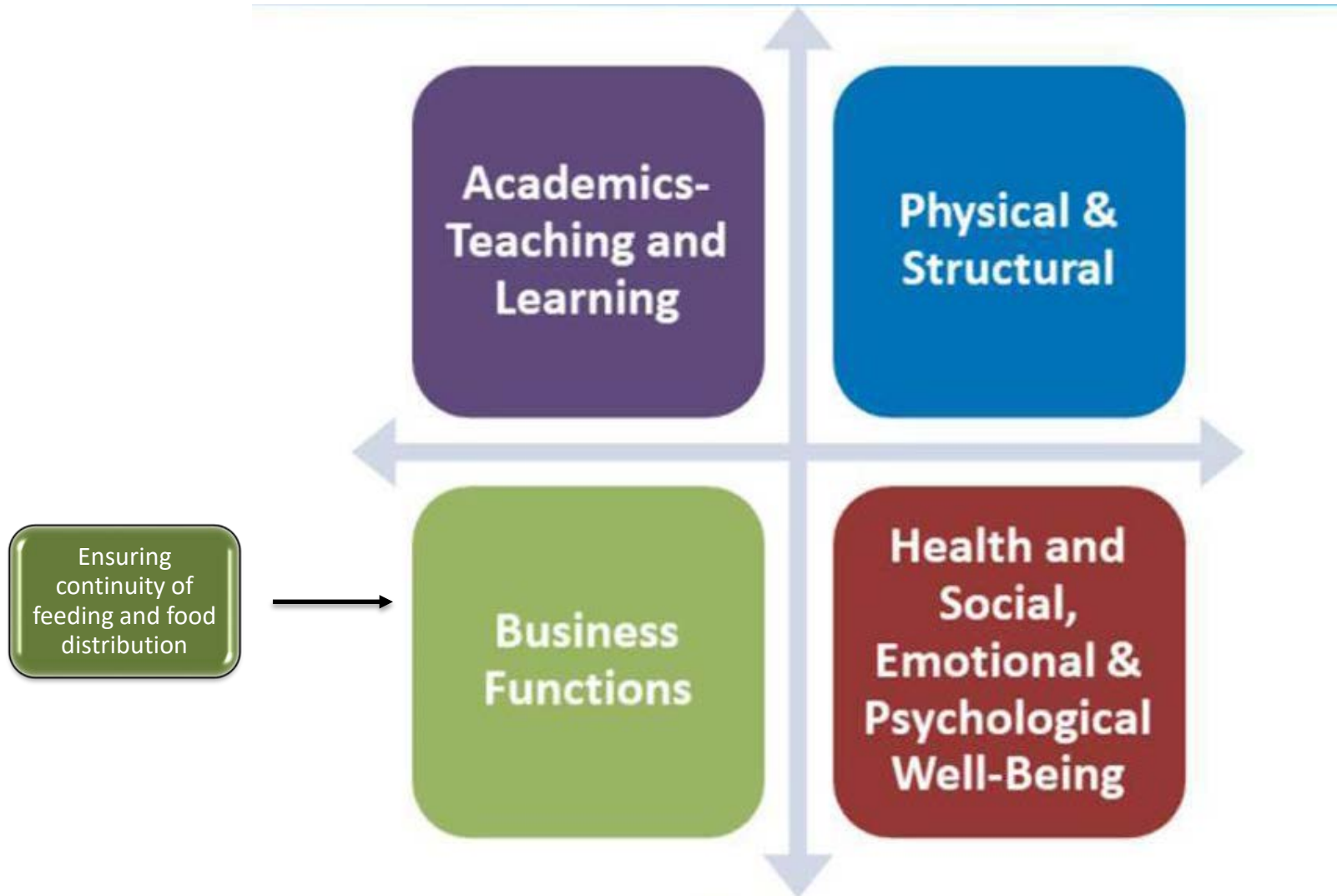
Poll Question | Information-Sharing

Has your agency created a Web page to share information specific to feeding and food distribution in response to COVID-19?

- If yes, share a copy of the link. (If you can't locate the link before this poll ends, please share it via the Chat box or via email to info@remstacenter.org.)
- If no, what communications vehicle(s) are you using to share information with the school community?

Understanding Feeding and Food Distribution as an Essential Education Agency COOP Element

Core COOP Planning Components



Continuity of Feeding and Food Distribution

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) divides food insecurity into the following 2 categories:

- **Low food security:** “Reports of reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet. Little or no indication of reduced food intake.”
- **Very low food security:** “Reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.”

Poll Question | Key Education Agency Partners

Select the education agency offices and departments with which have collaborated in order to support education agencies ensuring continuity of feeding and food distribution. (Select all that apply.)

- Administration
- School Nutrition
- Human Resources
- Accounting
- Public Health or Health and Human Services
- Emergency Management
- Transportation
- Family Engagement
- Information Technology
- Other

State and Local Food Distribution Models

Walk-up, drive-thru or curbside distribution

- Use of SROs to ensure safety at distribution sites

Mobile or bus route delivery

- Integration of Wi-Fi Hubs as a cross-cutting essential service

Direct home delivery

- Considering supports for families with special circumstances, needs, and access issues

Creation and dissemination of meal-finder sites and applications

- Integration of local, state, and Federal partner programs and sites.

Challenges to Ensuring Continuity of Feeding and Food Distribution

Screening Essential Staff

Adjusting Food Preparation Methods

Redesigning Food Distribution Methods

Understanding Federal Programs and Waivers

Ensuring Compliance with Local, State, and Federal Programs

Federal Waivers, Authorizations, and Resources

U.S. Department of Education

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES)

Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief Fund (ESSER Fund) allows school districts to use a portion of their funds to determine how to provide meals to eligible students.

FEMA Public Assistance Program

Guidance on COVID-19 Activities Eligible for PA Reimbursement

- [COVID-19 Pandemic: Eligible Emergency Protective Measures Fact Sheet. Issued a new policy](#) that addresses the purchase and distribution of food eligible for Public Assistance funding under emergency and major disaster declarations for the COVID-19 pandemic.



COVID-19 Response: Child Nutrition Programs

Tina Namian

Child Nutrition Programs

USDA, Food and Nutrition Service



FNS COVID-19 Website

- Find information about Agency-wide efforts to respond to COVID-19
- Includes Child Nutrition Program waivers and guidance materials

[https://www.fns.usda.gov/
disaster/pandemic/
covid-19](https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19)

Families First Coronavirus Response Act

- Title II, COVID-19 Child Nutrition Response Act
- Allows Nationwide Waivers to support access to the Child Nutrition Programs
- Waivers apply automatically to all States that elect to use them



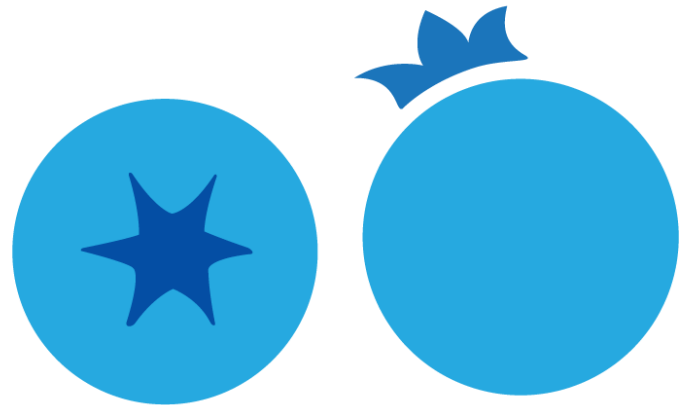
Nationwide Waivers

- Non-congregate Meals
- Meal Service Times
- Afterschool Activity
- Meal Patterns
- Parent Pickup
- CEP



Nationwide Waivers

- Onsite Monitoring
- 60-Day Reporting
- Unanticipated School Closures
- Local School Wellness Assessments





Statewide Waivers and Program Guidance



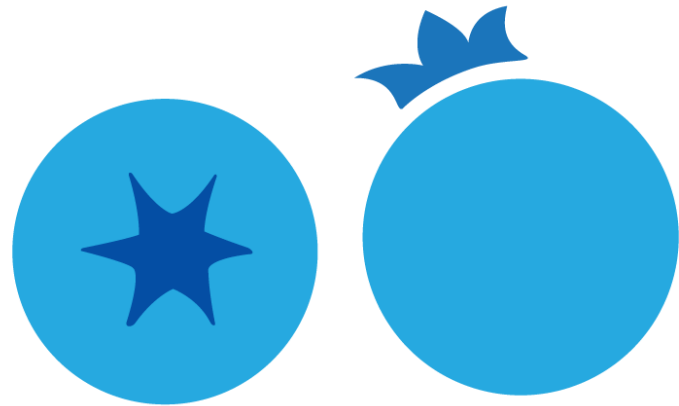
Statewide Area Eligibility Waivers

- Allows non-area eligible Summer Food Service and/or Seamless Summer Option sponsors to operate open sites in areas approved by the State agency
- Sites must target benefits to children in need
- Effective through June 30, 2020



Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Guidance

- May be provided in a non-congregate setting at participating elementary schools
- May be offered at the same time as summer meal programs through June 30
- Must request a waiver to provide FFVP foods to parents/guardians



Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)

- Authorized by Congress
- Provides assistance to families of children impacted by school closures
- Children who would normally receive free or reduced price school meals are eligible under this provision
- As of May 18, 31 States have been approved for P-EBT



Snapshot of State Models



GaDOE School Nutrition

COVID-19 Response

Dr. Linette Dodson, State School Nutrition Director

Support for local School Nutrition Programs & Georgia Students

- Developing Resources /Partnerships
- Directors Briefings/Calls
- USDA Calls
- Sharing Out & Up
- Waiver Discussions
- P-EBT Collaboration
- Food Boxes/Meals To You



24+ MILLION MEALS

Meals served to date by GA School Nutrition Programs

THANK YOU GA SCHOOL NUTRITION PROFESSIONALS!



159

school districts are
currently providing

1552

meal site locations for
Georgia students.



School Nutrition Programs

- ✓ **Qualified Staff**
- ✓ **Safe Food Handling**
- ✓ **Employee Safety and Attendance**
- ✓ **Handling Distribution Hurdles**
- ✓ **Menu Adjustments**
- ✓ **Waiver Implementation**



What's New With School Nutrition?

www.gasnp.org

Districts, schools, organizations and providers: Use the hashtag **#KeepGAFed** to post about your work to provide student meals and **#KeepGALearning** to post about your efforts to provide learning opportunities for students. We'll use these hashtags to help you spread the word to students, parents, and families.



#KeepGAFed

- **Share** school meal delivery routes and sites
- **Lift up** those preparing, transporting and delivering meals
- **Connect** communities with food banks and pantries

#KeepGALearning

- **Share** access to free digital instructional materials like activities, games, videos, and lesson plans
- **Connect** communities with internet access services

Georgia Department of Education

Fact sheet: How to Protect Yourself

[English](#) [Chinese](#) [Spanish](#)

Fact sheet: What You Need to Know

[English](#) [Simplified Chinese](#) [Spanish](#)

Fact sheet: What to Do If You Are Sick

[English](#) [Simplified Chinese](#) [Spanish](#)

Poster: Stop the Spread of Germs

[English](#) [Spanish](#) [Simplified Chinese](#)

Poster: Stop the Spread of Germs

[English](#) [Spanish](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) for information on Preventing COVID-19 spread in schools.

[CLICK HERE](#) for Coronavirus Guidelines for America

[CLICK HERE](#) for Information from the CDC on Preparing and Disinfecting Your Home

Reach out to [Dr. Ellen Steinberg](#), Food Safety Specialist, with any questions.

“

Grateful I have food every day and people that care about me and be able to be blessed and wake up every day and grateful that the school brings lunches and breakfast.

Dalton Public Schools student”



“We know food insecurity for students who rely on school meals is a major concern during school closures,” *State School Superintendent Richard Woods* said. “We are going to make sure there are options available for students as long as they’re needed, and state and district school nutrition staff are working round-the-clock to get this up and running for Georgia’s kids.”

“We appreciate the work our local school nutrition directors and their staff are doing to provide these meal options to Georgia students,” states *GaDOE School Nutrition Director Dr. Linette Dodson*.



THANK YOU GA SCHOOL NUTRITION PROFESSIONALS!

“Lunches and snacks may include fruit, cut veggies, yogurt, muffins, peanut butter and jelly, ham and cheese, cheese [sticks], juice and milk.

Everything is devoured, delicious and never thrown out.

The boys like every carefully chosen item.

Food is more than just sustenance, it symbolizes care.

My family is so appreciative of the care shown us during this time of uncertainty.

Thanks for giving our grandsons something yummy to eat and a break we look forward to during these long days.”

Linnea Lindstrom, Savannah



Like. Follow. Engage.

Share your school story with us!



@GaDOENutrition



@gadoe_snp



@GaDOENutrition



fuelingga@gadoe.org



Georgia Department of Education School Nutrition



New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*New Jersey Department of Education
Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning*



School Preparedness & Emergency Planning
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Jeff Gale, Director

jeff.gale@doe.nj.gov

609-508-2995



DIRECTIVE:

On March 13, 2020, Governor Phil Murphy directed NJ DOE Commissioner Lamont Repollet to ensure students eligible for free and reduced meals would continue to be provided with meals without fail during any potential closure period related to the COVID-19 health crisis.



RESULT:

On March 13, 2020, NJ DOE Commissioner Lamont Repollet directed me to ensure students would continue to be provided with meals without fail during any potential closure period related to the COVID-19 health crisis!

NJ State Police Colonel Patrick Callahan was called to collaborate on a plan and a process leveraging the resources of the Statewide Emergency Operations Center.



THE PLAN:

- Each school district's closure plan was reviewed and portions relating to meal distribution were separated into 21 respective county folders.
- A "Model Plan" was identified for schools to approximate.
- A "Guiding Principles" document was prepared to assist schools safely and effectively distribute meals to eligible students.



THE PROCESS:

- The submitted plans, the Model Plan, and the Guiding Principles documents were forwarded to the 21 county OEM coordinators.
- The county coordinators disseminated the groups of documents to the local OEM coordinators in each respective district to review.
- The local OEM coordinators reached out to offer support and guidance to districts in need.



OVERSIGHT:

Members of the OSPEP team travelled daily to school sites that distribute meals to observe the practices resulting from the process established. To date, the team has observed meal distributions at:

- **248** School Districts
- **484** School Sites
- **33** Charter Schools
- **80** Off-Campus Sites (churches, apartment complexes, skating rinks, municipal lots, etc.)
- **15-20** Bus Delivery Routes



COMMON OBSERVATIONS

- *Insufficient Social Distancing*
 - Recipients shoulder-to-shoulder in lines
 - Recipients mingling and socializing
- *Overuse of Inside Distribution*
 - Recipients & Distributors in close quarters
 - Increases chances of aerosol inhalation
- *Aggregating meals on one table*
 - All meals subject to contamination by one ill person
 - Draws all recipients to common location



COMMON OBSERVATIONS

- *Failure to use non-contact delivery methods*
- Increased risk of exposure
- *Handing meals to recipients (at table/into vehicle)*
- Increased risk of exposure
- *Lack of Crossing Guards*
- *Lack of Security/Law Enforcement*
- *Low Turn-Out*
- Insufficient Messaging (language, redundancy, way-finding)
- Early start time?



TRAINING:

As a result of the observations, the OSPEP constructed a series of 4 training seminars to date, providing guidance to over 5,000 school administrators and staff.

Options to consider were provided to assist overcome issues negatively impacting areas of concern.



STRATEGIES:

Encouraging better communication to community.

Devising both walk-up and drive-up processes.

Employing no-contact food delivery methods.

Discouraging hand-to-hand delivery of meals.

Discouraging indoor set-ups.

Encouraging use of signage, markers, and barriers to reinforce social distancing.

Promoting security and traffic safety at sites.

Encouraging use of PPEs (Workers & Recipients).



BEST FOR ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.

Mike Herrmann and Brenna Morse,
Tennessee School Safety Center

District Operations, May, 2020



BEST FOR ALL

We will set all students on a path to success.

ACADEMICS

ALL TENNESSEE STUDENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION, NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE

WHOLE CHILD

TENNESSEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL BE EQUIPPED TO SERVE THE ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS

EDUCATORS

TENNESSEE WILL SET A NEW PATH FOR THE EDUCATION PROFESSION AND BE THE TOP STATE TO BECOME AND REMAIN A TEACHER AND LEADER

Ensuring Continuity of Feeding and Food Distribution During the COVID-19 Pandemic



Objective:

1. Discuss Tennessee's Challenges and Solutions to ensure continuity of feeding and food distribution during the COVID-19 Pandemic.



Establishing A Process

Launching statewide feeding operations during a pandemic is challenging for all, but similar to the development of emergency operations plans, a whole community approach is being utilized to overcome the challenges.

- Local Nutrition Teams
- Local Safety Personnel
 - Nurses
 - School Resource Officers
 - School Safety Coordinators
- Transportation Directors and Bus Drivers
- Local Emergency Managers and Partners
- State Agencies to include Tennessee Education, Tennessee Emergency Agency, and Tennessee Department of

Safety Protocols

It became apparent immediately that if we could not identify and establish common safety protocols, maintaining feeding operations would be impossible.

- Food Prep
 - Health Screenings
 - Temperature Checks
 - Providing Masks and Gloves
 - Having a back-up plan for when a site needed to close due to COVID positive testing.
- Grab and Go Drive-Thru Sites
 - Putting food in plastic bags for easier handoff.
 - Having drivers pop trunks and personnel place bags in the car without exposure to driver.
- Transportation
 - Working through concerns regarding school bus stop feeding sites and legalities of school bus lights/stop signs.

Maintaining the Work Load

During an emergency, responsibilities from normal operations do not cease. We have found it helpful to **organize the work and divide responsibilities** between team members.

- Current Feeding Operations
 - Identify and provide support for current needs.
- Normal Operations
 - Prioritize and maintain work streams for important work that is normally conducted during normal operations.
- Future Planning
 - Forecasting operational needs for 30, 60, 90 days.
 - Staying current on federal waivers and safety guidance.
 - Looking ahead to changes in feeding during next school year.

Lessons Learned

As challenging as this crisis has been, it has also rewarded us with many insights for improvements to our plans. We are committed in capturing what we did today, so we can learn for tomorrow.

- After action review.
- Analysis of practices.
- Updating plans and planning templates that utilize lessons learned.

Contact Information

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Brenna Morse, Director, TN School Safety Center

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Brenna.Morse@tn.gov



Oklahoma State Department of Education Child Nutrition Program

COVID-19 Feeding Plan for Child
Nutrition Programs in Oklahoma

Jennifer Weber - Executive Director
Oklahoma State Department of Education Child
Nutrition Programs



OKLAHOMA
Education

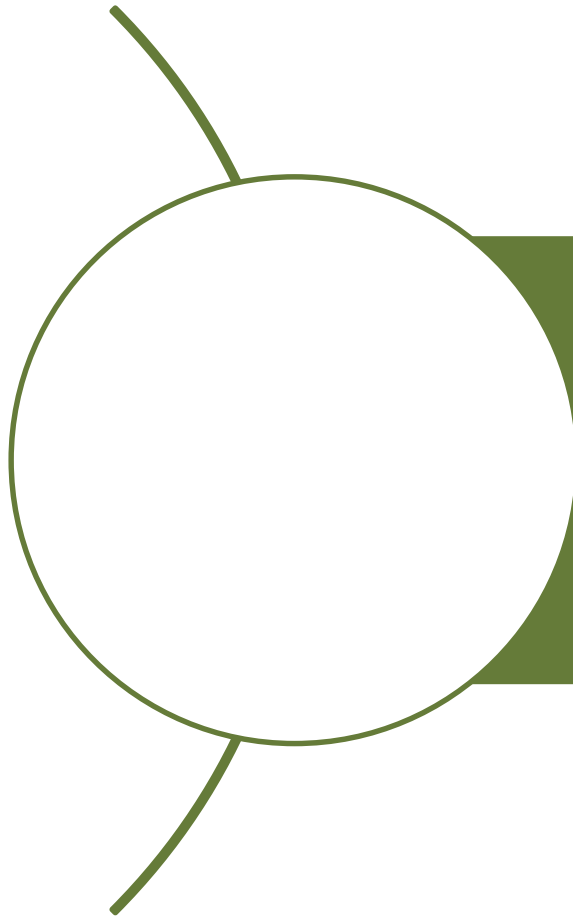


COVID-19 Feeding Options

- Quickest Application Process – SSO
- Existing SFSP Sponsors
- CACFP
- USDA Nationwide Waivers vs State Waivers
- 1.7+ Million meals served between March 23-31

Moderated Panel Discussion

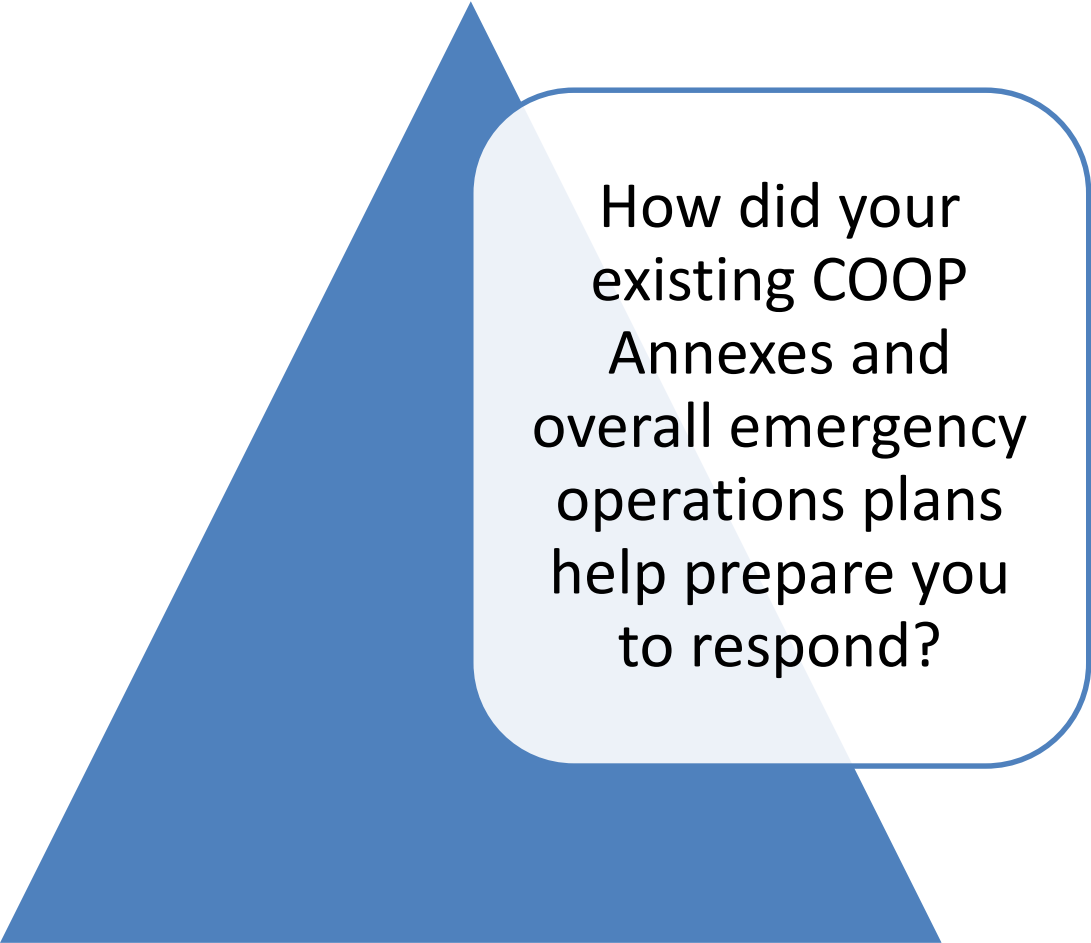
Challenges and Solutions



What would you describe as the most difficult challenge associated with ensuring continuity of feeding and food distribution in your state?

- What solution did you use to respond to that challenge?

Using Existing COOP Annexes & EOPs



How did your existing COOP Annexes and overall emergency operations plans help prepare you to respond?

Lessons Learned

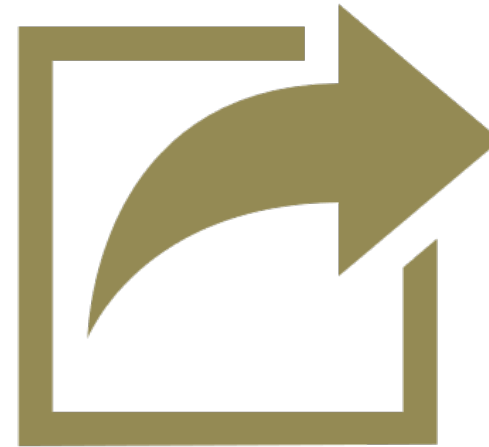
What are some of the lessons that you have learned through your efforts to ensure continuity of feeding and food distribution in response to COVID-19



Looking Ahead

As we enter the summer and prepare for a new school year, are there any plans to adjust your models of delivery?

Question & Answer Session



Please use the Q&A Pod
to submit your questions.

Continue the Discussion



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On Twitter

#ChatWithREMS



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PROTECT



MITIGATE



RESPOND



RECOVER