

Emergency Meals-to-You

Easily-prepared meals for rural students available during unplanned school closures

School is closed, students can't congregate, and you still need to ensure they receive adequate nutrition. Emergency Meals-to-You (www.mealstoyou.org) can help!

Emergency Meals-to-You provides shelf-stable, easily prepared, kid-friendly meals to students in rural school districts during unexpected school closures. Under the authority of the United States Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program (USDA SFSP), along with waivers in place allowing non-congregate feeding models, local education authorities (LEAs) can deliver meals by mail to their students.

To be eligible, school districts must

- be closed for at least four weeks,
- have at least 50% of students enrolled qualify for free or reduced-priced meals, and
- fall under the designation of rural (see <https://www.fns.usda.gov/rural-designation> or at the National Center of Education Statistics, nces.ed.gov)

Recognizing that geography is complex, communities may attest that they are rural if one of the following applies:

- Transportation is a major barrier, preventing students from being able to access traditional meal sites (in this case, including grab-n-go options), and/or
- Their population is too small to support traditional models because of the economies of scale at play.

At no cost to the school district, this program provides administrative support and technical assistance, and connects school districts (the sponsors) with vendors. Vendors have the capacity to purchase, package, and deliver a box of meals containing 10 or more meals that meet SFSP nutrition requirements, all within the financial parameters of traditional SFSP.

This program is primarily directed towards rural families, for whom traditional SFSP service options are a challenge due to circumstances like quarantines or natural disasters.

How to apply:

- Contact the agency that administers SFSP in your state.

-OR-

- Go to Mealstoyou.org
- Click "Emergency"
- Click "School District"
- Download and fill out the application
- Send completed application to your State Agency