

VIRTUAL



**Nourish  
California**



**Children's Advocates  
Roundtable**

**Child Nutrition Updates and  
Opportunities for Action**

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## Here's the plan...

1. Share child nutrition updates for the coming year, including updates for Pandemic EBT, Summer Meals, After School Meals, and Child Care meals.
2. Turn it over to the California WIC Association to share WIC updates.
3. Share updates and advocacy opportunities at the federal level, including updates on what is happening now (e.g., budget reconciliation and the fiscal funding cliff) and what is coming up (e.g., child nutrition reauthorization).
4. Allow a place for discussion and questions and make sure everyone has the information they need to make their voices heard in support of child nutrition.



# State of Child Nutrition Programs in California

## Updates on state and federal policy for the coming year



## Pandemic EBT

- Pandemic EBT (or P-EBT) is a federal program that provides additional food benefits to make up for free or reduced-price meals usually served at child care or school that children may have missed because of the pandemic.
- P-EBT benefits can be used like CalFresh to buy food and are accepted at most grocery stores, farmers markets, and online at Amazon and other retailers.
- **3.7 million children** received Pandemic EBT in March – June, 2020.

## 10 things to know about P-EBT

1. California has a new P-EBT website: [www.capandemic-ebt.org](http://www.capandemic-ebt.org)
2. Earlier this summer, USDA approved California's P-EBT plan
3. The approved plan covers the period October 2020 through the summer of 2021.
4. There is no application for P-EBT.
5. Receiving P-EBT will not hurt a family's immigration status.
6. P-EBT cards arrived for eligible young children (<6yrs) this summer.
7. For eligible school-age children, P-EBT cards started arriving in August.
8. In December, all eligible children will receive a \$375 summer P-EBT benefit.
9. California has a P-EBT Helpline (877.328.9677) available in multiple languages.
10. California is working on a P-EBT plan for the 2021-2022 school year.

## Summer Meals

1. Federal Summer Meals Programs were established to ensure that children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session.
2. In the 2017 school year, **86% of children** who benefited from free or reduced-price lunches during the school year **missed out on summer lunches**.

## 4 things to know about Summer Meals Programs

1. Schools and community partners can operate Summer Meals Programs.
2. Summer Meal Program sites have been able to leverage federal waivers to continue grab and go meal service over the summer months.
3. Federal waivers are also in place to allow all Summer Meal Program sites to serve free school meals to ALL kids regardless of their location.
4. California is awaiting guidance on summer meal waivers for summer 2022.

## Child Care Meals and CACFP

1. Similar to school meals, but targeted at our youngest learners, the Child and Adult Care Food Program reimburses child care centers and family child care home providers for serving meals to eligible children.
2. The program is also available to serve adults in adult day care and youth in shelters.
3. **38% of licensed child care facilities** in California participate in CACFP.



## Three things to know about child care meals and CACFP

1. Thanks to years of advocacy, child care centers and family child care homes will soon receive additional state supplemental funding for meals served in child care.
2. Federal waivers are also in place to allow all family day care homes to receive the highest CACFP reimbursement through June, 2022.
3. Young adults under the age of 25 experiencing homelessness will now be able to receive meals at emergency shelters participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

## After school meals and snacks –

1. The NSLP Afterschool Snack Service offers cash reimbursement to help SFAs provide a nutritional boost to children enrolled in afterschool activities.
2. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk Afterschool Meals Component provides funding to afterschool programs that serve a meal and/or snacks to children and teens in low-income areas.
3. In the 2019-2020 school year ~ **2 million** afterschool meals and snacks were served in California.

## After school meals

1. The ability of schools to bundle afterschool meals alongside regular school meals has been really important for virtual learning.
2. Federal waivers allow all schools and at-risk afterschool care centers to serve afterschool meals and snacks free of charge to all children through June 30, 2022.

## Five things to know about WIC

1. Operating under federal waivers including presence requirement.
2. The 84 WIC local agencies have remained open for business.
3. Final rollout of the WIC WISE MIS, WIC card and app were in March 2020.
4. Rolled out other technologies: interactive texting, videoconferencing, email
5. Participation is improved from pre-pandemic, just under 1 million, but remains a concern, along with redemption



# Federal Opportunities for Action

## Happening Right Now: Budget Reconciliation

The House Education & Labor Committee just voted to approve critical investments in child nutrition, including:

- Expanding eligibility and increased federal funding to offer school meals free to all through the Community Eligibility Provision
- Giving states the option to offer free meals to all via statewide CEP through June 2030-- and providing increased federal reimbursement to help make that possible.
- Extending Summer EBT nationwide to help families purchase nutritious food for their children when school meals aren't available

## Why this matters for California:

1. Thanks to new state laws, in the 2022-23 academic year, all students will have access to free school meals. Those meals will help students learn, grow, and achieve at their fullest potential.
2. Federal resources are needed to sustain this historic change for California kids. The federal budget reconciliation process, including the investments advanced by the House Education & Labor Committee, can help make those resources a reality.
3. Of course, children need access to nutritious meals every day, not just during the school year. Summer EBT, a program that helps families purchase food for their children, is proven to fight hunger and nourish kids when they don't have access to school meals.

## What's Next

- Democrats publicly insist they're on track to vote for the up to \$3.5 trillion bill in the House later this month.
- We need all House members to support these critical child nutrition investments.
- We need our Senators to fight against any attempts to weaken the proposal.



## Every Kid, Every Day

### Tell Congress: Invest in Child Nutrition

The House Education & Labor Committee just voted to approve critical investments in child nutrition, including

- Expanded eligibility and increased federal funding to offer school meals free to all through the **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)**
- Extending Summer EBT nationwide to help families purchase nutritious food for their children when school meals aren't available

We applaud these investments in the health and well being of our children. We urge Congress to pass the Build Back Better Act (budget reconciliation) with all of the important child nutrition provisions adopted by the committee.

Please ask your members of Congress to support investments in school meals, Summer EBT, and other resources to nourish children. **Using this form, you can send a personalized message in just a few minutes.**

Want to learn more? See our [full update](#).

### Send Your Message

1 Details    2 Messages    3 Confirmation

First Name  Last Name

Street Address

Postal Code  City  State/Province

Email

#### Interests

- Action Alerts
- Newsletter and Updates

NEXT

Visit [nourishca.org](https://nourishca.org) to learn more and for a sample messaging and action tools to share with members of congress

## Also Happening Right Now: Funding Cliff

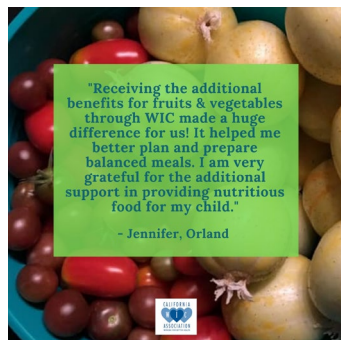
- Congress is approaching the September 30th funding deadline. House Democrats are planning a vote the week of Sept. 20 to likely extend government funding until Dec. 10.

## WIC Cash Value Benefit

- Cash benefit for fruits and vegetables, provided since 2009
- Expanded in June –Sept. 2021
- \$9-\$11/individual to \$35/individual for fruits and vegetables
- Needs to be extended in the Continuing Resolution before Sept. 30
- **ACTION:** Urge your representative to [support this](#)

# What Advocacy is CWA Doing?

We're taking our cues from the National WIC Association and currently focusing on funneling input from WIC participants to Washington!



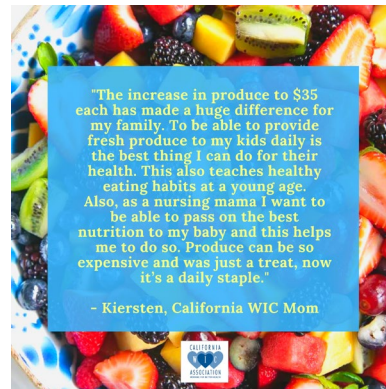
Collecting quotes on the CVB Increase and producing social media assets

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1\\_m6ajMYt-yntk5JBGalbdDxPanMXhGCP?us](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_m6ajMYt-yntk5JBGalbdDxPanMXhGCP?us)

Sharing

Working on a collection of videos from participants on their WIC experiences

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrnB4ZNQMTs>



Leading a group of about 80 "WIC Ambassadors" comprised of local agency staff

Making ourselves available to meet with members of Congress during annual advocacy events and when questions arise



## The “R” in CNR-Reauthorization

- Child Nutrition Programs are supposed to be reauthorized every 5 years.
- In the House of Representatives, the Education and Labor’s Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services has jurisdiction over Child Nutrition Reauthorization. In the Senate, the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry’s Subcommittee on Nutrition, Agriculture Research, and Specialty Crops has jurisdiction over the reauthorization.
- The last reauthorization passed into law was the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, which included the mandate to transition to EBT. The WIC experience has drastically changed since Congress last passed an authorization.
- Congress attempted to reauthorize the child nutrition programs in 2015 and 2019, but both processes fell apart.

## Coming Up: Child Nutrition Reauthorization

**Ask your Senators and Representatives to Cosponsor  
“marker bills” you care about:**

- Access to Healthy Foods for Young Children Act of 2021 (S. 1270)
- Universal School Meals Program Act of 2021 (S. 1530 / H.R. 3115)
- The Stop Child Hunger Act of 2021 (S. 1831 / H.R. 3519)
- Summer Meals Act of 2021 (S. 1170 / H.R. 783)

# Legislative Priorities for WIC in the CNR

The focus for WIC provisions will be on resolving challenges with participation, reflecting the caseload decline from 2010–2020. A surgical look at certification barriers is needed to ensure that eligible families can readily participate in the program and retain children for the duration of eligibility.

## Physical Presence

Congress must advance changes to restore a new balance between in-person requirements and telehealth flexibilities employed during the pandemic. Post-pandemic, it is imperative that WIC restore health assessments, but provide greater flexibility to onboard families via remote means while also coordinating more effectively with healthcare providers. No marker legislation on this topic, although bipartisan conversations are ongoing.

## WIC Act

Congress must resolve gaps in eligibility that impact nutrition outcomes, including an extension of postpartum eligibility to ensure healthier subsequent pregnancies and an extension of child eligibility to provide a seamless gap to full-day kindergarten. Congress must also extend the infant certification period to resolve one of the greatest administrative barriers to child retention. S.853 and HR 2011, WIC Act of 2021

## WIC for Kids Act

Congress must continue to streamline certifications to ensure that children can remain on the program, including by extending child certification periods and adding additional adjunctively eligible programs, such as CHIP and Head Start.



# Additional WIC Priorities

## Breastfeeding

New investments in the peer counselor program can empower out-of-clinic placements that further coordinate with healthcare settings like birthing hospitals and physician offices.

## Online Shopping

Although USDA is advancing a rulemaking in November, additional steps can be taken to reduce administrative barriers to scaling up online purchasing solutions.

## Target Populations

WIC can launch new initiatives to improve outreach and retention of military families, tribal communities, and other target populations.





## WIC Online Shopping

- Online ordering/pick up/delivery SNAP & WIC
- USDA current task force and expected to have rulemaking in Nov.
- Gretchen Swanson Center administering 5 grants to states to work on online ordering-recipients TBA soon
- **ACTION:** Comment on CNR

## WIC Food Package Review

- ‘New’ food packages in 2009
- Required review every 5 years
- National Academy of Science Engineering and Medicine review in 2017
- No follow up action by USDA
- Expect review and comment period in possibly December
- Potential opportunity for improvements or expansion
- **ACTION:** Comment during review



# Thank you!

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## Resources...

1. Nourish California's Action Center:  
<https://nourishca.org/get-involved/action-center/action-alerts/>
2. List of California's approved federal child nutrition waivers:  
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/california>
3. CDSS's P-EBT updates: <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/home/pandemic-ebt>
4. New Fact Sheet: School Enrollment & Access to School Meals:  
<https://nourishca.org/publications/school-enrollment-access-school-meals/>
5. Extend the WIC Bump Campaign page:  
<https://www.nwica.org/blog/extendthewicbump-campaign-supporting-the-cash-value-benefit-increase#.YUN2AbhKiUl>