



Emergency Food Access During COVID-19

A Resource for Human Services Providers in New York City

Summary:

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented unprecedented challenges for New Yorkers. This compilation of New York City emergency food access resources for those in need may serve to ensure no New Yorker faces food insecurity during this challenging time.

All New Yorkers are eligible for emergency food access, **regardless of income level or immigration status**. The most up-to-date information about New York City emergency food access resources can be found by clicking [here](#).

For further assistance or information about food resources, New Yorkers can contact the **Emergency Food Hotline** by dialing [866-888-8777](tel:866-888-8777) or [311](tel:311).

Get Emergency Food Now – Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP)

HRA's Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) provides funding to more than **500 community kitchens and food pantries citywide**. If you need food, you can get help today at one of New York City's food pantries, which provide groceries to cook at home, or community kitchens, which provide hot meals.

This program offers two ways to receive free food quickly: (1) New Yorkers can pick up cooked meals from a community kitchen or (2) get groceries from a food pantry.

You can find your nearest community kitchen or food pantry on the [Get Food NYC map](#). Some locations offer halal and kosher meals and groceries, and pantries are available in all five boroughs.

Grab & Go Meals

Easy-to-access **Grab & Go Meals** are available to community members and can be picked up throughout the City at school buildings.

More information about this program can be found [here](#).



Any New Yorker – not just those with family members in City schools – can go to **any City school building** between 9:00 am and 12 pm, Monday through Friday, to pick up free grab-and-go meals. No identification or registration is necessary to receive a meal, and halal and kosher meals are available at select sites.

You can find a convenient pick-up location by visiting [this link](#), or by texting “**NYC FOOD**” or “**NYC COMIDA**” to 877-877 (text messaging and data rates may apply).

Long-Term Food Assistance Services

Access NYC offers resources for New Yorkers in need of food assistance beyond the COVID-19 pandemic:

- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (SNAP) benefits can help families purchase groceries.
- [SchoolFood](#) provides free breakfasts and lunches for NYC students.
- [Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children](#) (WIC) provides free food, nutrition counseling, breastfeeding support, and referrals for women, as well as children and infants under age five.
- [Commodity Supplemental Food Program \(CSFP\)](#) provides healthy food packages for low-income adults age 60 and above, as well as cooking and nutrition lessons. CSFP can refer eligible adults to social and healthcare services.

Click [here](#) to learn more about these programs and to determine eligibility for benefits.

Thank you for your work to support communities during COVID-19!
Please email info@humanservicescouncil.org with any questions.

Thank you to the Fund for Public Health in New York City and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for supporting the creation of this material.