

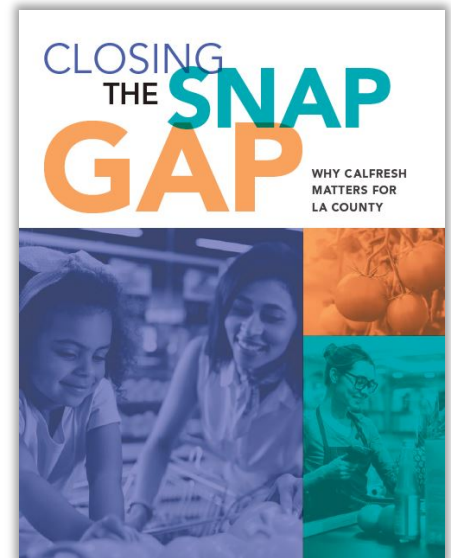
CalFresh Healthy Living Newsletter

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Closing the SNAP Gap: A summary

Amidst unprecedented unemployment brought on by a global pandemic, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or CalFresh as it's known in California, has become an invaluable resource helping families and individuals weather these extremely difficult times. Despite the high need, systemic barriers result in an underutilized benefit that could alleviate food insecurity for many LA County residents.



This report produced by the LA County CalFresh Task Force highlights the barriers to participation and offers recommendations on how to maximize the program to not only benefit

participants but also stimulate the local economy and food system. In 2019, CalFresh resulted in \$2.66 billion in economic impact from \$1.77 billion in benefits that were distributed locally, however, due to the gap in participation \$623 million was not allocated and thus there was \$934 million lost economic impact. The gap during 2019 was 500,000 LA County residents who were eligible but not participating, and although the number of people who are participating has absolutely increased due to the pandemic, a gap still remains.

The report emphasizes that increases in participation are possible by overcoming administrative hurdles, such as the long-standing rule which barred participants in the Social Security Insurance (SSI) program from accessing CalFresh benefits despite earning less than \$900 a month, well under the income threshold for CalFresh eligibility. SSI recipients are typically either 65 or older, blind, or disabled, so restricting them from receiving CalFresh benefits was causing undue harm to the most vulnerable people in the state. Through years of advocacy, the rule was repealed and as of June 2019, SSI recipients are now eligible, which has resulted in an increase in participation in LA County alone by nearly 20%, the largest increase in participation since the Great Recession.

Aside from administrative hurdles, this report focuses on other barriers to participation and approaches to overcome those barriers. All of these efforts are ongoing and are needed now more than ever, but this report emphasizes that change is possible and that we should work together to usher in those changes. Download the full report [here](#).

WIC Continues to Serve Families Through COVID-19

WIC continues to operate during the pandemic as an essential service in order to provide important and necessary services to families. Their offices have been closed to the public since March 2020 in compliance with the Governor's "Safer at Home" order. In the interest of protecting the health and safety of our WIC families, they will remain closed to the public until further notice. All appointments and benefits are being provided virtually by phone and online.



In this time of uncertainty, families need their services more than ever. WIC services will continue while offices remain closed to the public through at least September 2020.

Los Angeles County, Orange County, and San Bernardino County residents can text APPLY to 91997, or complete a simple online application at www.phfewic.org/apply. All other California residents can find their nearest WIC program [here](#). Residents outside of California can find their state WIC program [here](#).

Fathers, grandparents, foster parents, and caretakers are welcome to apply for WIC benefits for their children under age 5. WIC is also not considered a part of public charge. Participating in the WIC program does not affect immigration status for anyone currently in the U.S. See WIC income eligibility guidelines [here](#).

Launch of the Journal of Healthy Eating and Active Living



The [Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition](#) recently launched their Journal of Healthy Eating and Active Living (JHEAL). JHEAL is an international, online, open-access, quarterly, peer-reviewed journal focused on publishing high-quality studies in the areas of active living and healthy eating.

Of particular interest are studies of the interactional nature between active living and/or healthy eating and the "environment," broadly defined to include social, cultural, economic, political, natural, virtual and built

dimensions. Papers that report on multi-level studies and interventions are also welcome. They publish full length reports, brief communications, meta-analyses, scoping reviews, translational and practice-based research, policy and systems change evaluations, natural experiment studies, case studies, notes from the field, commentaries, and systematic reviews. Quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods studies are all encouraged.

They invite submissions from researchers as well as practice- and policy-oriented submissions from practitioners, policy makers, and advocates. Research and practice/policy papers will have separately-labeled sections, and reviewers with appropriate expertise will be selected. They are also open to publishing digital media files including maps, visualizations and other modern media. Check out their new journal website [here](#).

Healthy Snack Day 2020 Changes Due to COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) CalFresh Healthy Living (CFHL) program is cancelling Healthy Snack Day 2020, originally scheduled for September 2.

However, opportunities to promote healthy snacking still exist---virtually!

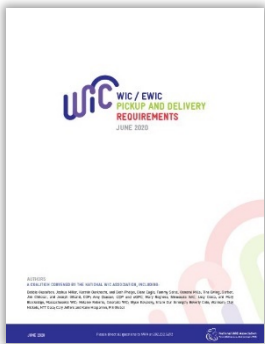
Local Implementing Agencies (LIAs) and community partners can order a *Make Every Day Healthy Snack Day!* event box for a **Virtual Day of Action** when it's the right time for your local community. Here are some of the important dates:



- ❖ **Event Box Registration: July 15 - July 29, 2020**
- ❖ **Event Box Requests are Confirmed: July 31, 2020**
- ❖ **Expected Delivery of Event Boxes: Last week in August**
- ❖ **Step-By-Step Guide to Hosting a Virtual Day of Action Zoom Webinar: September 2, 2020**

Click [here](#) to register.

Online Food Ordering Report Released



In April, SNAP participants in CA were able to order their food online. The COVID pandemic has magnified the need for this option for WIC participants, who are pregnant or with their infants and children in tow shopping in crowded stores and often using public transportation. The National WIC Association (NWA) workgroup has produced the first of 3 papers related to online food ordering. Here is the information as posted in the NWA Monday Morning Report:

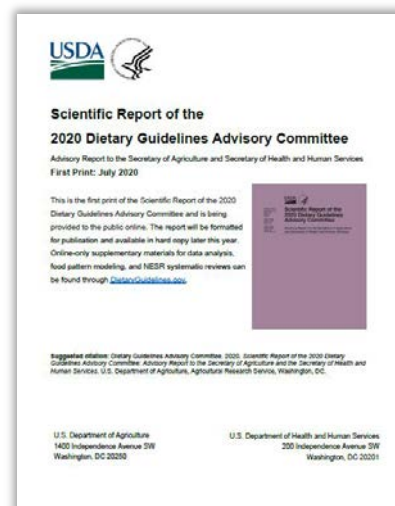
The WIC Pickup and Delivery Requirements document outlines potential processes and requirements for a phased approach to online ordering in WIC that ends with intelligent ordering with online purchasing. The document first describes the current state of eWIC, then clarifies the differences between SNAP and WIC when it comes to online ordering, and finally outlines the technical requirements associated with what the authors term "Phase I", a Non-Intelligent Remote Order.

This is the first in a series, which will include three additional phases: Phase II: Intelligent Online Ordering; Phase III: Intelligent Order with Online Payment; and Phase IV: Smartcard. Read the full report [here](#).

Scientific Report of the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee

The 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee has completed their review of the evidence on nutrition and health, and their Scientific Report is now available online. The final report reflects the Advisory Committee's full examination of the evidence using three rigorous approaches: data analysis, systematic reviews, and food pattern modeling.

The Scientific Report includes their conclusions and advice to the United States Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services, their rationale and, finally, their recommendation for future research. All of this information will be taken into consideration by the Departments in the development of the next edition of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*. Click [here](#) for their full report.



Webinars

New Additions in Purple

Introduction to YPAR (Summer YPAR Training Series)

July 20, 2020 9:00 am

Join staff from the UC Davis Center for Regional Change and CFHL, UC for a series of online workshops focused on Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR). Attendance at all 3 workshops is not required and participants can sign-up for one or multiple sessions depending on their interests and level of experience. Register [here](#).

Modeling Health: How Health Systems Can Take Action to Reduce Sugary Drinks

July 22, 2020, 7:00 am

The American Cancer Society, in partnership with the Public Health Law Center, will host a webinar series on creating healthier food and beverage environments in hospitals and healthcare settings. The first webinar, "Modeling Health: How Health Systems Can Take Action to Reduce Sugary Drinks," will be on July 22 from 10-11 am ET, and will discuss the connections between COVID-19 and diet-related chronic diseases and the unique role that health. Register [here](#).

Healthy People, Healthy Planet: Building a More Sustainable, Resilient, Equitable, and Nourishing Food System

Wednesday-Thursday, July 22-23, 2020

On July 22 and 23, the [Food Forum](#) will host a virtual workshop that will explore the integration of the health, societal, economic, and environmental effects and future needs of the food system. The main objective is to understand how to achieve a resilient food system in 2050 that provides access to safe and nutritious food with environmental and economic sustainability. Workshop presenters will explore three main dimensions of the food system: vulnerabilities, resiliency, and transformation. Register [here](#).

Cities Addressing Food Insecurity During COVID-19 and Beyond **Thursday, July 23, 2020, 12:00 pm**

Join the Food Research & Action Center and the National League of Cities to learn how the federal nutrition programs can help families struggling with food insecurity during the COVID-19 public health emergency and beyond into the school year. This webinar will provide city leaders and city agencies an overview of the programs, best practices for implementation, opportunities to leverage programs and funding, and a look at cities in action. Register [here](#).

Adapting SNAP-Ed Programming to Remote Delivery (Part 1) **July 28, 2020, 11:00 am**

*A three-part webinar series. SNAP-Ed partners across the country are adapting to a changing and challenging new virtual environment. While some initiatives are modifying their existing digital nutrition education platforms, others are reinventing their delivery methods. Register [here](#).

From You to Yum: Leveraging Nutrition Communications, Trends and Perceptions to Become Relevant to Today's Consumers **Tuesday, July 28, 2020, 10:00 am**

On July 28th join Leslie Bonci, MPH, RD, CSSD, LDN for "From You to Yum!" a webinar designed to showcase how you can leverage nutrition communications, trends and perceptions to become relevant to consumers today and in the future. Leslie will share tips for communicating in an effective, targeted, and memorable way while breaking through the noise of today's environment of information overload. Register [here](#).

Food Systems Resiliency **Tuesday, July 28, 2020, 10:00 am**

Please join moderator Kamal Khaira, UC CalFresh Director as we learn more about programs, resources and services that can support our children and families during this unprecedented time. The main topics will cover ways to secure benefits and access nutritious foods. Register [here](#).

Measuring and Evaluation Impact (Part 2) **August 4, 2020 11:00 am**

*A three-part webinar series. SNAP-Ed partners across the country are adapting to a changing and challenging new virtual environment. While some initiatives are modifying their existing digital nutrition education platforms, others are reinventing their delivery methods. Register [here](#).

Collecting and Reporting Data (Part 3) **August 11, 2020, 11:00 am**

*A three-part webinar series. SNAP-Ed partners across the country are adapting to a changing and challenging new virtual environment. While some initiatives are modifying their existing digital nutrition education platforms, others are reinventing their delivery methods. Register [here](#).



Funding Opportunities

New Additions in Purple

Culture of Health Prize

Close Date: July 31, 2020

This request seeks an entity to re-imagine, lead, and manage the next two-year phase of the leadership and management of the national Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Culture of Health Prize. This call for proposals provides background on the RWJF Culture of Health Prize and outlines responsibilities for an organization selected to take on the next phase of leadership and management. Applicants may be public entities; nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; or for-profit organizations. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Emergency Meal Distribution Equipment Grants

Close Date: Rolling deadline until all funds are awarded

School nutrition professionals across the county have stepped up to get food to kids during school closures. Districts and schools have shared the need for additional equipment to create grab-and-go curbside meal pickups at schools and other locations within the community, additional hot and cold food storage containers, grab-and-go packaging materials, and mobile distribution to families in outlying or rural communities. Working with the equipment vendor, [Hubert](#), Action for Healthy Kids will provide selected school districts with equipment credits for \$1,000-\$2,000 per site to purchase equipment. Click [here](#) to apply.

Pioneering Ideas: Exploring the Future to Build a Culture of Health

Close Date: Proposals accepted on a rolling admission

Pioneering Ideas: Exploring the Future to Build a Culture of Health seeks proposals that are primed to influence health equity in the future. RWJ Foundation is interested in ideas that address any of these four areas of focus: Future of Evidence; Future of Social Interaction; Future of Food; Future of Work. Additionally, RWJ welcomes ideas that might fall outside of these four focus areas, but which offer unique approaches to advancing health equity and our progress toward a Culture of Health. Click [here](#) to apply.



Reading Opportunities

Virginia Investment Increases Access to Healthy Fruits and Vegetables

Virginia invested \$1.25 million in its new budget for the Virginia Food Access Investment Program and Fund so that more vulnerable residents can have better access to healthy fruits and vegetables. Learn more about Virginia's investment [here](#).

Training Resources

Title	Date / Time	Format	Info	Registration
Food Smarts: Waste Reduction Training	Thurs. 7/23 10:00 am	Webinar	----	Register here
Designing Powerful Online Meeting Experiences	Tues. 7/28 8:30 am	Online Training	Flyer	Register here
ToP Secrets of Implementation - <i>Virtual Edition</i>	8/10 & 8/6 9:00 am	Zoom Training	Flyer	Register here
Nutrition Update Webinar	Tues. 8/25 11:00 am	Webinar	----	Register here
Community Engagement: Involving Community Members in Priority Planning and Implementation	Wed. 8/26 1:30 pm	Webinar	----	Register here
2020 Healthy Snack Day Step-by-Step Webinar for Hosts	Wed. 8/26 11:00 am	Webinar	----	Register here
<p>Visit the CDPH Trainings and Resources page for the latest training related information and calendar of all scheduled trainings and events. Please seek approval from Project Officer and Contract Manager prior to travel.</p>				

If you would like to submit content or have any questions or comments about the CalFresh Healthy Living newsletter, please contact Tania Marquez at tmarquez@ph.lacounty.gov