Version last updated: 4/20/2020

NJCNF COVID-19 Emergency Meal Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

Please note, this FAQ document will be updated frequently with additional content and relevant resources.

I. Eligibility, Funding Priorities and General Program Questions

- **Who is eligible to apply?**
  - Sponsors, sites and vendors that are:
    - Located in or supporting programs in New Jersey;
    - Currently operating a meal program for children under the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) or the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP);
    - A non-profit or for-profit entity;
    - Able to demonstrate organizational capacity to meet program goals and requirements.
- **Are school districts and or charter schools eligible to apply for this funding?**
  - No. At this time, the funding is focused on supporting programs not operated by a school district or charter school. Organizations or businesses working with a school district may apply.
- **If my organization is partnering with a school district to implement their National School Lunch Program am I able to apply?**
  - No. At this time the funding is limited to programs using SFSF or CACFP.
- **May I apply for programs serving adults with CACFP?**
  - No. While CACFP supports programs that provide meals to children and adults in group settings, this grant is focused on supporting programs serving meals to children under 18.
- **Do the organization and site(s) have to be located in New Jersey?**
  - Yes. The legal entity address may be located outside of New Jersey, but any site (or sites) for which funding is requested must be located in New Jersey.
- **What funding needs will be considered?**
  - The program aims to supplement the per meal federal reimbursements from CACFP and SFSP in light of the impacts of COVID and public health social distancing requirements. Funding for additional operating expenses, new equipment needs, higher supply costs or interruptions in the organizations primary source of income may be considered. Applicants can seek up to $10,000 for operating expenses and up to $25,000 for equipment needs.
- **If I am applying for both operating and equipment needs, how much may I apply for?**
  - The maximum funding award amount is $35,000 total per legal entity – limited to $10,000 for operating expenses and $25,000 for equipment needs.
- **What if I am interested in starting a CACFP or SFSF program in my community, am I eligible?**
  - The COVID-19 Emergency Meal Grant program is primarily aimed at organizations that operate meal programs and are adapting their programs in response to COVID-19. NJCNF will continue to also operate its existing program - offering business planning services and grant and loan funding for predevelopment activities to childcare operators, community-based organizations and food vendors that seek to participate in CACFP and SFSP. Please

find more information about our Expansion Awards at our website https://www.reinvestment.com/childnutritionresourcecenter/

II. Application Process and Technical Support

- **What is the deadline for applications?**
  - Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and approved as long as they meet eligibility and need, while funds are available. Once applications open on April 21, 2020, applications will be live until further notice.
- **How can I apply?**
  - All applications are online through Reinvestment Fund's online grants portal found on the NJCNF web page starting on 4/21 around 1PM EST: reinvestmentfund.smartsimple.com. You can complete the full application through the application portal on any internet accessible device. Application instructions can be found here: https://www.reinvestment.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/NJCNF_Smart-Simple-Application-Instructions.pdf
- **Are applications awarded on a first come first serve basis?**
  - No. Applications will be received on a rolling basis and reviewed weekly. Applications will be scored based on established criteria and either approved or denied. Applications will be reviewed and processed until funds are exhausted.
- **How will applications be selected?**
  - NJCNF will prioritize awards based on the following:
    - Programs serving rural areas
    - Programs in or serving southern NJ counties
    - Programs serving children not currently being served by their School Districts
    - Programs serving higher numbers of children
- **How is the program defining Rural Areas?**
  - NJ-CNP is identifying rural areas following a USDA definition, which encompasses areas outside of census designated places (e.g., cities, towns, hamlets) with a population over 50,000 and their accompanying suburbs
- **How will applications be reviewed?**
  - Applications are being screened, reviewed, and scored by a trained team of staff from Reinvestment Fund.

III. Questions and Support

- **How can I get questions answered or receive support in completing my application?**
  - Email: Please direct individual questions by email to NJCNF@reinvestment.com. We will do our best to respond to all questions within 24 hours (Monday – Friday 9-5pm).
  - Request a Phone Call: You may call 215-574-5881 and leave us a voicemail to request support by phone and we will do our best to call you back within 48 hours. Please leave a brief message including your name, phone number, and question, and best time to reach you. You can also reach us by email for more immediate responses.
  - Webinar: An informational webinar will be held on April 21, 2020 at 11 am eastern time. The webinar will be recorded and shared for later viewing. The webinar will

include a walk-through of how to apply online using the grants portal, as well as an overview of information about the NJCNF COVID-10 Emergency Meal Grants opportunity and application. Reinvestment Fund staff will take questions during the webinar. Registration link will be available on our website: https://www.reinvestment.com/childnutritionresourcecenter/

- Other tools and resources: This FAQ document will be updated frequently with additional content and relevant resources. We will also have instructional information available on the website to help interested applicants navigate the online application portal, please refer back to the website https://www.reinvestment.com/childnutritionresourcecenter/

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