

Food Assistance

SNAP

As the largest food assistance program in the country, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps those in need put food on the table. In 2017, SNAP assisted more than 42 million Americans who suffered from food insecurity, including 1 in 9 Connecticut residents. To learn more about the program and the application process, contact [Connecticut's SNAP office](#) or End Hunger CT's SNAP call center at 866-974-SNAP (7627).

Please review the House Committee on Agriculture's answers to frequently asked questions about individual eligibility for the program below.

Can I qualify for SNAP if I am getting unemployment insurance?

Your household must meet certain requirements to be eligible for SNAP and receive benefits, even if you are getting unemployment insurance. If your state agency determines that you are eligible to receive SNAP benefits, you will receive benefits back to the date you submitted your application.

How long will I be able to get SNAP?

If you are determined to be eligible for SNAP, you will receive a notice from the state agency that tells you how long you will receive SNAP. H.R. 6201 gives USDA the authority to allow states to extend the period for households to continue receiving SNAP without re-enrolling. Additional information on states with this option is available [here](#).

How much will I receive?

States calculate monthly SNAP benefit amounts for each household, based on the household's net income, up to the maximum monthly allotment amount for the household's size.

What can I buy with SNAP benefits?

You can use SNAP benefits to buy most food items, except hot foods; prepared foods for immediate consumption; alcohol; tobacco; vitamins, medicines, and supplements; and any nonfood items.
WIC

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) provides supplemental nutritious foods needed by pregnant and nursing women, babies, and young children. Read more about WIC eligibility [here](#) and find out how to apply for the program [here](#).

Food Banks

Included in Congress' emergency relief packages is \$850 million in funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) to help food banks address food insecurity and accommodate increased demand. Call the USDA National Hunger Hotline at 1-866-3-HUNGRY/1-877-8-HAMBRE to find food assistance near you.

My child is enrolled in school. What assistance is available?

Families with school-aged children concerned about food security should review the following town-by-town information to learn more:

COVID-19 School Food Information

Bridgeport

Grab & Go Meals- Breakfast, Lunch, and Supper are available to children 18 years of age and under – Monday through Friday. Weekend meals are available for pickup on Fridays. Breakfast, Lunch & Supper can all be picked up at the same time.

Meal pickup is available at the following school locations between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm: Barnum, Batalla, Black Rock, Blackham, Bryant, Claytor, Columbus, Cross, Curiale, Hall, Hallen, Harding, Hooker, Johnson, Marin, Park City, Read, Roosevelt, Tisdale, Winthrop

All children 10 and under MUST be accompanied by an adult. No one is permitted to enter school buildings.

Darien

All families with children currently receiving Free or Reduced Lunch through the Darien Public Schools will be eligible for a grocery store gift card through the Human Services Department, please call 203-656-7328 for more information.

Redding/Easton

Pickup days are on a "Monday – Wednesday – Friday" schedule. Please bring a shopping bag with you to transport your meals. The program is open to all families. To ensure that there are enough prepared lunches/breakfasts available at the time of pickup, it is important that families email the Business Operations Manager, Oliver Crouch (email address – ocrouch@er9.org) by 3 pm the day before the pickup time as described below.

The pickup area for all grade level students will be behind Joel Barlow High School at the back entrance to the cafeteria/food services area. The area will be marked. If you have never been to Barlow, please drive to the back-parking lot of the high school using Turney Road in Redding.

Below are the specifics:

- Pickup times will be 11 am – 1 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays only starting on Monday, March 30, 2020. Pickup times have been limited to minimize person-to-person contact as much as possible.
- Each pick up will contain lunches and breakfasts for two days (with the exception of Friday which will have meals for one day)
- Please email the Business Operations Manager, Oliver Crouch (email address - ocrouch@er9.org), by 3 pm the day before the pickup time to ensure there are enough

lunches/breakfasts prepared. In your email, please note the names of the students for whom you will be collecting meals and the school he/she attends.

- Please bring a reusable shopping bag to collect your meals
- Food related questions should go directly to the Director of Food Services – David Kennedy; telephone 203-938-0862.

Fairfield

- Meal service is expanded to 5 hours, 8:00 am-1:00 pm at all 3 schools.
- Meal service is at Roger Ludlowe MS, and McKinley ES and Holland Hill ES
- May take 2 meals at a time, breakfast & lunch. All meals grab-n-go.
- May take a multiple day supply of meals. Please bring a reusable bag.
- Curbside pickup only will start Monday at all 3 sites.
- Menu & allergy information is available on FPS Food Services webpage. Visit McKinley's menu for meals served at all 3 sites.
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Please remember you can access this service whether you qualify for free/reduced lunch or not.

Greenwich

Breakfast and lunch will be provided during the school week Monday-Friday to all students 18 years or younger.

Breakfast: Hot breakfast will be delivered by the Transportation Association of Greenwich (TAG) every morning. The buses will wait for 10 minutes at each stop.

Lunch: Bagged lunches will be delivered by C.E.S. Transportation using SUV vehicles with Norwalk Transit logos on them. The bus will be at the location for 20 minutes.

Monroe

You must sign up your child(ren) each week for the free Monroe lunch program. Every Friday, you will receive an email to sign up for the following week. You will have until 3:00 PM, each Sunday, to sign up at the provided link on that email. The link will be inactivated at 3:00 PM.

Pickup for bagged lunches will be offered each day, Mondays through Fridays, from 11:30 AM until 1:00 PM, at Jockey Hollow Middle School, 365 Fan Hill Road. Typical lunches will include a sandwich, milk, and fruit/veggie. Any dietary restrictions for participants may be noted on the form. If you have a special situation that requires lunch delivery, that can also be noted on the form. There are not many volunteer drivers. Therefore, deliveries are reserved for those who are unable to pick up the lunches in person. Any individuals with questions regarding this free program may email or call Horacio Coito, Monroe Manager of Sodexo Food Service, at: Hcoito@monroeps.org or 203-445-2070.

New Canaan

Food services staff are packing lunches for students in need, which drivers deliver to homes twice a week. Contact bryan.luizzi@ncps-k12.org, call 203-594-4010, or contact your school principal, or a school counselor anytime for assistance.

Norwalk

A bus driver and a food service worker will stop at each regularly scheduled bus stop to deliver meals to students. The food service worker will exit the bus and hand a bag containing breakfast and lunch to

each student at the stop. Buses will operate on a two-hour delayed schedule. Those who are interested in receiving meals should be at their bus stop two hours after their normally scheduled morning pick-up time. Meals will be delivered directly to special education students who receive door-to-door transportation.

Walkers and any student age 18 and under can also pick up meals outside of the schools they attend. Pickup time will be anytime between 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm daily. There will be no food drop-off at Side By Side Charter School. Side By Side students are welcome to pick up meals at Columbus Magnet School. NPS asks families to be patient during the early days of food delivery and drop off as processes are being finely tuned. Students and their families are also reminded to practice social distancing as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, standing 6-feet apart from others when possible. Families are urged to refrain from gathering after they have picked up food.

Ridgefield

The Districts Food and Nutrition Service Department will be providing free lunch grab and go meals to all Ridgefield Public School students Monday through Friday during the duration of the emergency school closure.

Location: East Ridge Middle School – front vestibule

Time of Operation: Monday through Friday – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. only

Type of Food: Grab and go bag meal

This emergency program follows the Seamless Summer Option of the National School Lunch Program.

Details of this programs are:

- Lunch grab and go bags will be provided to all Ridgefield Public School students only, at no cost to the families.
- Families can participate in the free lunch program if they have at least one child in their household who attends the Ridgefield Public Schools.
- The family must provide the student's name, and home address which will be verified in order to collect meals.
- Once one student in the family is verified, all children who are 18 years and younger within that household may receive a grab and go lunch at no cost.
- Children do not need to be present to collect the meal.
- Meals are not available for adults.
- To mitigate the spread of disease, no one will be permitted to enter the school past the vestibule.
- Please keep your social distance from other individuals.
- All meals will be based on product availability. Meals should be consumed within an hour of pick up or refrigerated immediately.
- If your child has a food allergy or medical issue, please let the Food and Nutrition staff know.
- Accommodations will be made to the best extent possible.

Shelton

The Shelton Public Schools, in conjunction with Whitsons Food Service, will be offering bagged breakfast and lunch free of charge for all students 18 and under enrolled in the Shelton Public Schools and Holy Trinity Catholic Academy in Shelton beginning Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Parents may pick up breakfast and lunch for their children beginning Wednesday (and continuing Monday through Friday

during school closure) between the hours of 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Shelton High School bus loop. During this time, the high school's Meadow Street gates will be closed in order to keep the flow of traffic on Meadow Street moving. All participants may enter and exit the high school grounds via the North Constitution Boulevard entrance.

Stamford

Stamford Public Schools (SPS) continues to provide free Grab-and-Go meals from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the following school and community sites on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays--even during the Spring Break week.

As of Monday, April 6, one dinner meal, per student, will be available on Mondays and Wednesdays at the school locations:

- Monday (two breakfasts, two lunches and one dinner meal per child 18 or younger)
- Wednesday (two breakfasts, two lunches and one dinner meal per child 18 or younger)
- Friday (three breakfasts and three lunches per child 18 or younger)

Elementary Schools

- Hart Magnet, 61 Adams Ave.
- Julia A. Stark, 398 Glenbrook Rd.
- K.T. Murphy, 19 Horton St.
- Newfield, 345 Pepper Ridge Rd
- Northeast, 82 Scofieldtown Rd.
- Rogers International School, 202 Blachley Rd.
- Roxbury, 751 West Hill Rd.
- Springdale, 1127 Hope St.
- Stillmeadow, 800 Stillwater Rd.
- Strawberry Hill, an extension of Rogers International School, 200 Strawberry Hill Ave.
- Westover Magnet @ 1 Elmcroft Road

Middle Schools

- Dolan, 51 Toms Rd.
- Rippowam, 381 High Ridge Rd.

Community-Based Organizations and Programs

- Anchor at Harbor Landing @ 68 Southfield Avenue
- Yerwood Center, 90 Fairfield Ave.
- Chester Addison Center, 245 Selleck St.
- Trailblazer (Domus), 83 Lockwood Ave.
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Please note: Dinner meals are only available at the school distribution locations on Mondays and Wednesdays. Dinner meals are not available at community distribution locations. In accordance with state guidelines:

- meals can only be distributed to parents or guardians of eligible children (18 or younger)
- duplicate meals cannot be distributed to any child (families should not go to multiple locations in the same day to receive meals)

Trumbull

Pickup of free lunch curbside at Trumbull High School from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. weekdays until schools are back in session.

Westport

Westport Families receiving Free and Reduced Lunch - families who receive Free and Reduced Lunch weekdays between the hours of 11am-1pm at Staples High School 70 North Avenue.

Lunches, with an included breakfast item, will continue to be available to all Westport students receiving free and or reduced lunches between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. This service will continue operating Monday through Friday during the school closure. (Services will not be available on Friday, April 10, 2020, Good Friday, but additional food will be provided on Thursday, April 9, 2020, to cover this brief disruption in service.)

Families of students receiving free and or reduced lunches can enter the main driveway of Staples High School, located at 70 North Avenue, and proceed towards the Field House entrance of the school. Tables will continue to be set up with "Grab & Go" lunch bags. In the event there is inclement weather, tables will be set up under tents or under the awning at the entrance to the Field House. It is critical that vehicles not block any designated fire lanes but instead park in available spots near the pick-up area. As a reminder, the lunches will have food labels; however, families who have any concerns about food allergies, such as dairy, egg, nut, soy, and gluten, are asked to leave a message no later than 9:00 a.m., each morning, explaining the concern. Messages should specify students' names and known allergies.

Messages regarding food allergies should be left in the voicemail box of Buffy Barry at 203-341-1754.

Wilton

If you are in need of lunch for your children during the school week, please complete the district form. Please contact Lucille DeNovio at denoviol@wiltonps.org if you have questions.