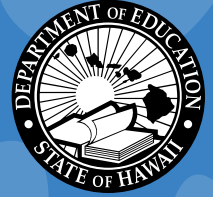


# HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## Community Eligibility Provision



### What is the Community Eligibility Provision?

Hawaii public schools are offering a food program to provide free meals to all students at select campuses that meet specific qualification standards. The Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) is participating in a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program to allow all students at those schools to receive free meal service. The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) allows a school district, a group of schools or a single school with high concentrations of economically disadvantaged families to serve free meals to everyone even if they do not qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch reimbursement.

### Who can help?

Families with student(s) who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch may help their school and community by applying for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Although families may apply for these programs at any point during the year, HIDOE is urging families to apply by **April 1, 2021**, so that your application may be counted towards helping your school and community become a CEP School!

### What are the benefits of CEP?

While it is possible to apply at any time during the year, application must be submitted by April 1, 2021 in order to help your school and your community to receive benefits from CEP.

**Students:** Access to free nutritious meals for all students, no stigma, and less time spent in cashier lines and more time to eat nutritious meals.

**Parents/Administrators:** No more worrying about individual student accounts and no collection of money.

**School staff:** Streamlined meal service operation and more time for students to consume their food.

### Where can I apply for SNAP or TANF?

[Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#)

[SNAP Online Application](#)

[Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\)](#)

### Who can I call if I need assistance applying for SNAP or TANF?

The Public Assistance Information Line (PAIS) is a nation-wide toll-free number (1-855-643-1643) available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. The PAIS website <http://pais.dhs.hawaii.gov> is accessible 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. They both provide basic information on a variety of assistance programs offered through the Department of Human Services. For a step-by-step guide to accessing PAIS, read this [informational brochure](#).

**Especially during these challenging economic times, HIDOE is encouraging all eligible families to apply for assistance through SNAP and TANF. These programs not only offer direct assistance to eligible families, but participation may also have the added benefit of bringing additional federal revenue to your child's school food services program. In some cases where families participate, free meals can be provided to all students at the school for the entire school year.**