

# State of New Mexico

## CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

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January 15, 2022

RE: **COVID-19: FOOD and SUPPORT with SCHOOL CLOSURES**

Dear Families:

Many of our children and families we serve across the state are facing added challenges with in-person learning being transitioned back to on-line and the Albuquerque Public Schools system hack closing all learning the last two days. Parenting is amazingly awesome and amazingly hard (all at the same time)! Adding in the ever-changing factors that we do not have control over makes it even more so. In some areas those difficulties include schools not being able to provide free lunches for kids. I would ask that we at CYFD, take a moment to reach out to our parents, resource families and neighbors to check in on food security, childcare needs and just a general “hi, how are you, and we are here”.

Below are resources we want to share:

- Albuquerque/Metro specifically: APS has not been able to provide school lunches to families the last two days and we have a 3-day weekend coming up. Please reach out **today** to your resource families, youth in ILPS and families we are engaged with in I-HS and Investigations to offer support connecting them with resources in the community that have stepped up to provide meals or local food banks.
  - <https://www.krqe.com/news/education/aps-to-remain-closed-friday-as-result-of-cyberattack/>
    - In response to the closure on Friday, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central New Mexico reports that it will offer free all-day programming for youth ages five to 18 at its location at 3333 Truman St. NE on Friday, Jan. 14 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. The program is open to all APS families for free on a first-come-first-served basis and they can take up to 70 students. Meals will be provided and parents will need to pick up their kids by 6 p.m. Parents are asked to [register online](#) beforehand or by calling 505-521-7900.
  - <https://www.aps.edu/news/emergency-news/all-school-schools-thursday-jan-13>
  - Chile Chicken Nashville Hot Chicken is providing meals to children and families in need, as they posted on Facebook a couple hours ago.
  - For resource families in ABQ with kids in school through NM Child First Network: [Active Foster Family in APS School District \(google.com\)](#)

- In areas outside of the Metro:
  - Most all schools have been able to continue providing free lunches to kids through a pickup line, much like last year when schools were closed to in-person learning. Please reach out to schools directly for more info on how to get those meals to our kids and families.
  
- Statewide:
  - SNAP benefits info: <https://www.hsd.state.nm.us/2022/01/12/extension-of-emergency-snap-benefits-will-continue-in-january-2022/>
  - [New Mexico Food Pantries | Food Banks, Food Pantries, Food Assistance in New Mexico](#)
  - [End Child Hunger in America | No Kid Hungry](#)
  - If a resource family or family is engaged with our Community Based Prevention, Intervention and Reunification providers, all have emergency discretionary funds available that could be of assistance.
  - Resource families will continue to receive the additional \$175 per month in care and support payments. The federal government just extended the emergency declaration, so as of now this additional funding will continue through June 2022!
  - Child Care resources: [Early Childhood Education & Care Department | Working to ensure that all New Mexican families and young children have equitable access to high-quality early childhood opportunities \(nmececd.org\)](#)
  - Pull Together for additional resources: <https://pulltogether.org/resources-by-county>
  - If you know of any other local restaurants, community programs, faith based programs or partners, PLEASE SHARE!

Please let me know if you have any questions and please feel free to share any other resources you know about with everyone, the more we know, the more we can help!

In Service,

Emily Martin  
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 Protective Services Division

