

## Free Meals for Kids Mobile App to Access School Meals During Closure

**Minneapolis, MN (March 26, 2020)** — With schools moving to distance learning, free nutritious school meals for kids 18 and under are only a click away. Starting immediately, the Free Meals for Kids mobile App will help families in need find and access free meals at hundreds of schools and other sites across Minnesota.



The App is powered by GPS and shows locations of schools and other sites that are providing meals and meal packs, with days and hours for distribution. It also shows the distance and directions to the nearest site. Kids up to age 18 can show up without prior signup for free meals.

"While this is an uncertain time, we don't want our families to feel uncertain about our commitment to support them. For many families, the meals served at school may be the only meals that their student have during the week," said Education Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker. "This App is a great tool to help families locate sites that are providing free meals, which include many school sites."

Many of the schools and other sites are located in areas where at least half of the children are eligible for free and/or reduced price school meals. On-site staff will ensure social distancing and keep children six feet apart as much as possible. There are also many communities working to support hungry kids with free meals. (To include your site on the App, please email Lauren Kraft at [lkraft@hungerimpactpartners.org](mailto:lkraft@hungerimpactpartners.org).)

"This is the time when the technology of a mobile App can help the most," said Ellie Lucas, executive director of Hunger Impact Partners, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit that created the App. "Hunger does not stop when students stop going into school buildings."

The App is free at the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store (Google Play Store is experiencing issues that should be resolved soon, so please check back. An alternative way to download the App for Android phones is on [www.hungerimpactpartners.org](http://www.hungerimpactpartners.org)) The App listing of schools and other sites providing meals will be updated daily.

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Department of Education develops, builds, and maintains collaborative relationships with schools, districts, and other stakeholders through a wide variety of advisory boards, councils and committees.

**About Hunger Impact Partners**

Hunger Impact Partners, a 501c3, works to change the trajectory of child hunger by improving access to and participation in under-utilized federal child nutrition programs for the 479,805 eligible Minnesota kids. Experts in hunger-relief, data analysis, community collaboration and policy solutions, the organization focuses on closing the meal gap for all low-income children birth to 18 so they can realize their full potential. [www.hungerimpactpartners.org](http://www.hungerimpactpartners.org)



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