

Breakfast Matters Webinar Series: Community Eligibility in the 2016-2017 School Year

Today's Agenda

- Overview of Community Eligibility
- Findings from FRAC's 2016-2017 report
- FRAC's Community Eligibility Database
- What's Next?
- Community Eligibility in New York State Jessica Pino-Goodspeed, Hunger Solutions New York
- Questions



How Community Eligibility Works

- Allows high-needs schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students without collecting applications
- Schools are reimbursed based on the proportion of lowincome children in the school or district
- Any school district can use this option if at least one of its schools has 40% or more students certified for free meals without an application (called "Identified Students")
- A district may implement community eligibility in one school, a group of schools or district-wide.



Benefits of Community Eligibility



- Less administrative work
- Participation increases
- Facilitates implementation of breakfast after the bell
- Improves the financial viability of school nutrition department
- No unpaid meal fees



How School Districts Can Participate

- 1) Individual school with 40% or more Identified Students
- 2) Group or multiple groups
- Districts may group schools in any way;
 no limit on number of groups
- Must have combined 40% or more Identified Students
- 3) Entire school district can participate as a single group as long as it has 40% or more Identified Students





Who Are "Identified Students"?

Children certified for free meals without a school meal application

Directly certified children in households that participate in:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Cash Assistance (TANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Medicaid, in certain states.

Children who are certified for free meals without application because:

- in foster care
- in Head Start
- homeless
- migrant



Reimbursements

Identified Student Percentage (ISP) x 1.6 = % meals reimbursed at "free" rate. The rest are reimbursed at "paid" rate.

Percentage Identified Students	Percentage Free	Paid
40%	64%	36%
45%	72%	28%
50%	80%	20%
55%	88%	12%
60%	96%	4%
65%	100%	0



Community Eligibility Continues to Grow

• SY 2014-2015 – 14,214 schools; 6.7M kids



• SY 2016-2017 – 20,721 schools; 9.7M kids

Still more room for growth!



Community Eligibility in SY 2016-2017

- 50 states and the District of Columbia
- School district participation
- School participation
- School participation by identified student percentages
 - 40 to 50%
 - 50 to 60%
 - 60% and above
- Enrollment
- Growth over three years in school participation and enrollment

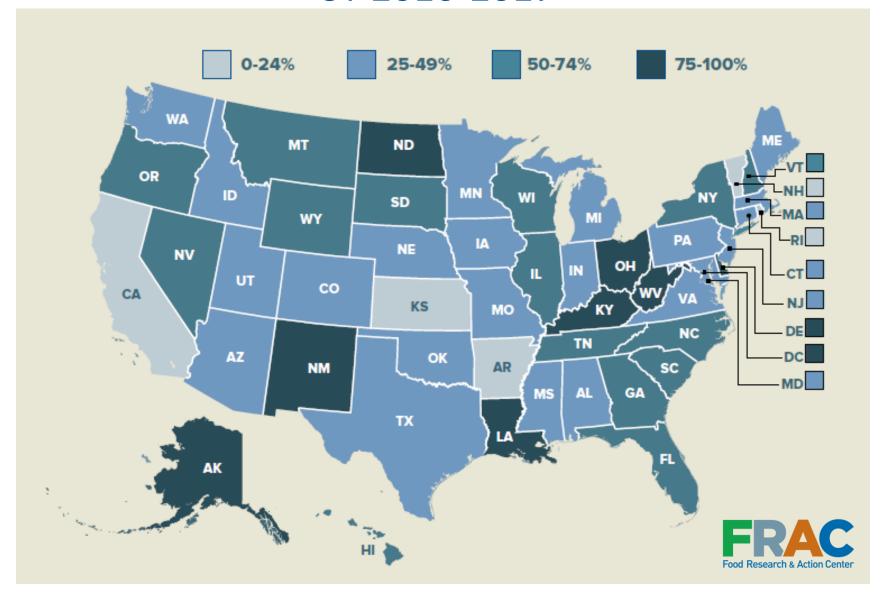


School District Participation

- 3,538 school districts participating
- 560 more school districts compared to 2015-2016 school year
- 47 percent of eligible school districts are participating
- Take-up rates among school districts varied significantly by state:
 - Over 80% of eligible school districts participating in OH, KY, WV, ND, and DC
 - 20% or below in NH, CA, KS, and RI



Community Eligibility Take-Up in School Districts SY 2016-2017



School District Participation Change

- Strong growth in many states:
 - New York 57 additional districts
 - Arizona, Florida, Ohio, and Oklahoma added more than 40 districts each
- All but four states increased number of school districts participating:
 - Iowa (-1 district)
 - Kansas (-2)
 - Tennessee (-3)
 - Michigan (-12)

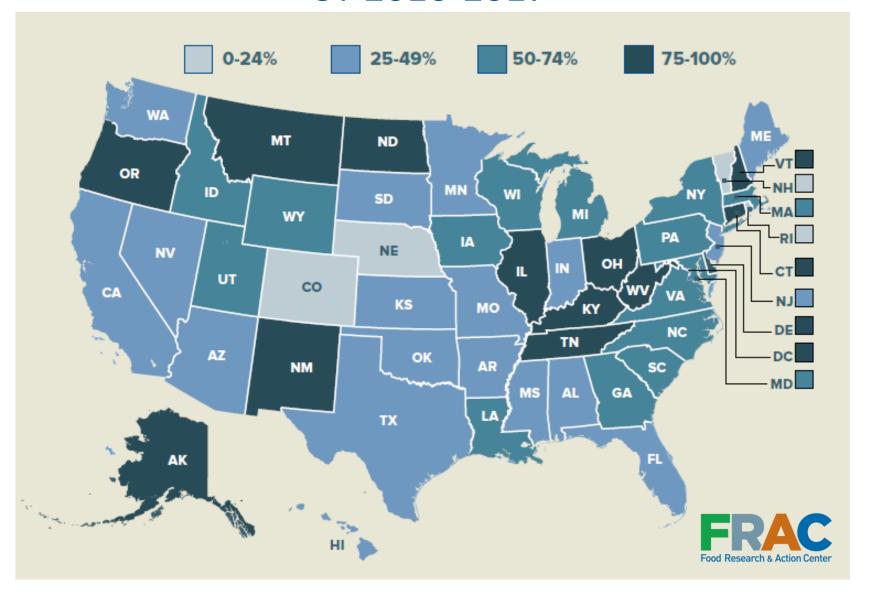


School Participation

- 20,721 schools participating
- 2,501 more schools compared to 2015-2016 school year
- 55 percent of eligible schools are now participating
- State take-up rates varied significantly:
 - Six states—OH, WV, DE, KY, AK, ND—and DC have 80% or more of eligible schools participating
 - 9 states have less than 1/3rd of eligible schools participating AR, AZ, CO, KS, NE, NH, OK, RI, and WA



Community Eligibility Take-Up in Schools SY 2016-2017



School Participation Change

- Continued growth in many states:
 - California increased by 419 schools
 - Louisiana +257 schools
 - New York +210 schools
 - Oklahoma +117 schools
 - Nevada +86 schools
 - Alaska +37
- All but three states saw growth in number of schools:
 - Alabama 1 school
 - Michigan 10 schools
 - Tennessee 15 schools



Enrollment in Community Eligibility Schools

- 9.7 million children in community eligibility schools
- Increase of 1.2 million since SY 2015-2016
- California increased by more than 300,000 students and 419 schools
- Florida and Louisiana added more than 100,000 students; 10 other states increased by 30,000+
- Texas has highest enrollment 985,000; 1 in 10 students in a CEP school



School Participation by Identified Student Percentage (ISP)

- Schools with ISPs of 60%+ are reimbursed for 96% or more of meals at free rate
- Schools with ISPs from 50-50% = 80-96% of meals reimbursed at free rate
- Schools with ISPs of 40-50% = 64-80% of meals reimbursed at free rate

Identified Student Percentage	Eligible Schools	Adopting Schools	Percent Adopting CEP
40 — less than 50 percent	10,567	2,188	20.7%
50 — less than 60 percent	10,491	6,027	57.5%
60 percent and above	16,736	12,418	74.2%



State and Local Factors Impacting Adoption

- Strong state leadership
 - Bringing stakeholders together
 - Outreach and technical assistance
 - Policy
- State policies for eliminating school meal applications
 - Clear and widely disseminated policies are key
 - Alternative data sources
 - Household income forms
- Direct certification rates
 - Strong direct certification helps school districts maximize reimbursement rate
 - Low direct certification means a schools' level of poverty may be underrepresented by ISP



Database of Eligible and Participating Schools

- Search by state, school district, and school
- ISP categories
- Enrollment
- Participating in SY 2016-2017







What's Next?

- Key dates for outreach:
 - Deadline for school districts to apply for SY 2017-2018 is <u>June 30</u>
 - States publish lists of eligible schools on May 1st
 - School district apply using data as of April 1st of SY 2016-2017
- Keep an eye out for FRAC's bi-weekly CEP emails with tips for outreach and implementation resources



Community Eligibility in New York State

Jessica Pino-Goodspeed, LMSW
Child Nutrition Programs Specialist



Overview



- CEP became available in 2012-2013 as pilot
- 6th school year of outreach and technical assistance

Still room for growth....

- Outreach strategy and technical assistance has evolved
- State-level barriers
- FRAC's CEP Database

CEP in New York State



528,748 students

in NYS attended schools that provided free meals to all students through CEP.

Only **41%**

of schools eligible to implement CEP adopted the provision.

1,452 schools

provided free meals to al students through CEP.

Source: CEP Data Base, Food Research & Action Center

Early CEP Outreach



Information/Education

- Eligibility
- Reimbursement
- Understanding "identified students"
- Benefits of CEP

Targets:

- Food Service Directors
- School Administrators
 (Superintendents, Business
 Officials, Boards of Education,
 Principals)



Provision Basics

Learn more about how the provision works in schools.



Qualifying for CEP

Learn more about who qualifies to participate in CEP.

Current CEP Outreach



Technical Assistance

- Direct Certification
- Implementing with 40%-50% ISPs
- Eliminating school meal applications

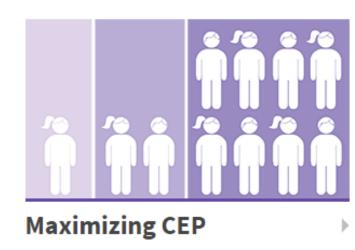


Partnering with community-based organizations:

- SNAP outreach
- Targeting Local Districts

Strategic Targeting:

- High-Poverty Schools
- Districts eligible to implement districtwide





Verifying & Correcting Your School's Direct Certification List for the Community Eligibility Provision

An up-to-date direct certification list can both improve your school's chances of qualifying for CEP and ensure the highest reimbursement rate from the USDA once enrolled in CEP. Find out how to verify and correct your direct certification list.

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is available as an option to provide universal meals without an application and at no charge to students in schools where 40 percent or more of enrolled students are directly certified for free school meals. Ensuring all eligible students are captured on your direct certification list can improve the chances of your school qualifying for CEP. Under CEP, the higher the percentage of directly certified students, the higher the reimbursement provided by USDA, which makes the provision more financially viable. This means it is now more important than ever that every school's direct certification list is accurate and complete.

Tips for Success:

Make your own direct certification list at the beginning of each school year.

Update your list monthly.

Eligibility for CEP is based on the number of students who are eligible to be directly certified for free school meals as of April 1st, so it is important to update your list each month and to determine the date when students became eligible for direct certification if you are adding students to your list after April 1st.

Students remain on the list all year.

Any students you add to your direct certification list remain on the list for the entire school year, even if they disappear from a later version of the official NYSED list.

Be sure to save all documentation pertaining to direct certification for the Community Eligibility Provision. Your direct certification list is largely made up by the online Direct Certification Matching Process (DCMP). The DCMP is made available by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and is intended to certify all eligible students who reside in a household receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Medicaid (determined by the Medicaid Program at or below 133 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines) benefits for free school meals without further application. Therefore, if a member of the household is eligible for SNAP or Medicaid, all children in that household are eligible for meals at no charge.

An official DCMP direct certification list is available online for schools to access at the New York State Child Nutrition. Knowledge Center. This list is available to access at any time but is updated each July, October, January, and April. New students will appear on the list throughout the year as the status of their family changes. This is why it is crucial that you work with the person at your district who has access to the list to make sure it is up-to-date and correct. If you are having difficulty accessing this official state direct certification list, call your Child Nutrition Program Representative at 518-473-8781.

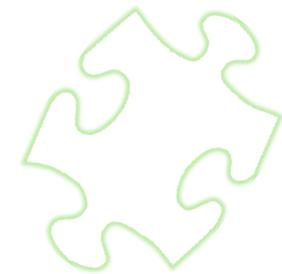
Who belongs on your direct certification list?

Any child who:

- . is on the official state direct certification list
- lives in a household that includes a child who
 is on the official state direct certification list
- has been formally placed in foster care by a State agency or court
- has been certified as homeless/runaway by a Homeless Liaison
- · is enrolled in a Head Start pre-k program
- has been certified as part of a migrant household

Direct Certification Tip Sheet for CEP

- Used most often
- State Agency weighed in on content
- www.SchoolMealsHubNY.org







CEP Equation for Reimbursement

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) enables high-poverty schools to offer breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students. This federal option is available to any district, group of schools in a district, or individual school with 40 percent or more "identified students"—children eligible for free school meals who are identified by means other than an individual household application. These equations can help schools determine their potential reimbursement under CEP.

DETERMINING CLAIMING PERCENTAGES:

Under CEP, schools are still reimbursed for meals through the federal programs, however, the levels of reimbursement are determined by a claiming percentage rather than by which meal category each meal falls into (i.e. free, reduced-price, or paid). This claiming percentage is calculated using the number of "identified students" (see box below) who attend the school.

Identified students include:

- Children directly certified for free meals through data matching because their household receives Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Need Families (TANF), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or Medicaid benefits.
- Children who are certified for free meals without an application because they are homeless, runaway, migrant, enrolled in Head Start/Even Start, or in foster care.

Identified Students Enrolled Students × 100 = Identified Student Percentage (ISP)

Equation to determine claiming percentage:

REIMBURSEMENT CALCULATION:

Once schools determine their claiming percentage, the following equation is used to determine the number of meals reimbursed at the free and paid rate:



There is a misconception that CEP is only cost effective if all meals—or nearly all meals—are reimbursed at the free rate. The following example compares traditional reimbursement to CEP reimbursement and demonstrates how CEP can improve revenue even in cases where only 80% of meals are reimbursed at the free rate. These calculations are based on federal "severe need" and state reimbursement rates for the 2015-16 school year.

more →

CEP Equation for Reimbursement

- CEP Reimbursement 101
- Help schools project revenue under community eligibility





Why Choose CEP?

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is an innovative tool schools can use to reduce hunger and increase access to meals. CEP streamlines the administration of school meal programs, making it easier to feed more students while improving the financial viability of school meal programs.

Reduces administrative cost

Less paperwork: Staff no longer has to spend time tracking down, certifying or verifying school meal applications; fewer staff members are needed to handle meal payments or track down uncollected fees.

Simplifies counting and claiming: Staff no longer has to track whether each meal served was paid, reduced-price, or free.

Increases efficiency: Schools only need to do a "head count" of how many students eat, allowing lunch lines to move more quickly because students no longer have to enter codes or swipe school ID cards.

Increases participation

Pilot schools implementing CEP have seen breakfast participation increase by 25% and lunch by 13%. Providing free meals for all students reduced the stigma of school meals, encouraging others to participate.

Maximizes participation

Simplified counting and claiming under CEP helps facilitate the implementation of alternative breakfast service models like Breakfast in the Classroom and "Grab and Go," which can further boost participation.

Improves revenue

When more students participate in school meals, economy of scale allows the program to be more cost effective and generate more revenue, which can be used to pay staff, buy equipment, and/or improve the quality of the food served.

Claiming rates can only improve

When a school initially applies for CEP, their claiming percentage is guaranteed not to decrease for four years. But if a school's identified Student Percentage increases, it can improve its claiming percentage—potentially resulting in increased federal and state funding.

The <u>USDA's Estimator Tool</u> can help schools assess the financial impacts of CEP by comparing an estimated federal reimbursement under CEP to the federal reimbursement received under standard operating procedures.

FoodHelpNY.org SummerMealsNY.org SchoolMealsHubNY.org AfterschoolMealsNY.org

HungerSolutionsNY.org



Prepared by Hunger Solutions New York; funded by NYSOTDA, FRAC, The Walmart Foundation, Share Dur Strength, and MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Why Choose CEP?

- Highlights how CEP improves the financial viability of school nutrition programs
- Opens conversation about SNAP outreach to improve claiming rates under CEP





427 New York State Schools with Identified Student Percentages below 60% are Making Community Eligibility Work



The following New York State Schools with Identified Student Percentages below 60% participated in Community Eligibility during the 2015-2016 school year. If you are interested in learning about a certain school's experience, Hunger Solutions New York can connect you with a contact person. Reach out to jessica.pinogoodspeed@hungersolutionsny.org.

Congressional District	County/ Borough	School District (Local Educational Agency or LEA)	Number of Schools Participating	Identified Student Percentage (ISP) 2015-16	Student Enrollment in Participating Schools
1	Suffolk	Riverhead CSD	3	59.57%	1,479
3 to 16	NYC	NYC Chancellor's Office	287	40-59.99%	67,125
4	Nassau	Academy Charter School	2	48.04%	661
7	Brooklyn	Achievement First Bushwick Charter*	2	50.18%	649
8	Brooklyn	Coney Island Prep Public Charter School	3	58.19%	635
8,9	Brooklyn	HCHC, Inc.—Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center	3	53.39%	117
9,10	Brooklyn	Cong Ohr Shraga D'Veretzky	2	55.04%	129
9	Brooklyn	Beth Rivkah High School	2	57.21%	1,928
9	Brooklyn	Brownsville Ascend Charter School*	5	55.49%	1,984
9	Brooklyn	Cheder (The)	2	44.10%	678
9	Brooklyn	Mesilas Bais Yaakov	1	56.78%	199
9	Brooklyn	Oholei Torah Elementary	3	59.30%	1,290
10	Brooklyn	Beth Jacob of Boro Park	1	50.66%	1,588
10	Brooklyn	Gerer Yeshiva/ Mesivta Bais Yisroel	1	51.32%	152
10	Brooklyn	Yeshiva Imrel Yosef Spinka	1	59.65%	247
10	Brooklyn	Yeshiva Sharei Hatzlucha	1	47.41%	246
13	Manhattan	Neighborhood Charter School Of Harlem	1	58.50%	260
15	Bronx	Harriet Tubman Charter School	1	50.70%	614
17	Rockland	Mesivta Meor Yitzchok Inc	1	48.84%	86
17	Rockland	Yeshiva Beth Mikroh	1	58.32%	583
17	Rockland	Yeshiva Shaar Ephraim	1	51.46%	206
18	Dutchess	Poughkeepsie City SD	7	57.76%	4,370
19	Ulster	Center for Spectrum Services	2	53.59%	153
19	Columbia	Hudson City SD	3	51.43%	1,916

NYS Schools with ISPs below 60%

- Great way to connect schools with similar ISPs
- We provide contact info upon request







Provision Basics

Learn more about how the provision works in schools.



Qualifying for CEP

Learn more about who qualifies to participate in CEP.



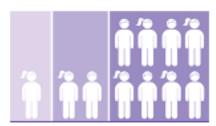
Making the Finances Work

To make the best decision about CEP, it is important for schools to fully understand the financial implications.



Why Community Eligibility Matters

CEP is a powerful tool that fights hunger in schools



Maximizing CEP

Once free breakfast is available to all students. CEP schools can make it more accessible by incorporating it into the school day.



Additional Resources

Resources on best practices for implementation, frequently asked questions, and comprehensive guidance for eliminating school applications



www.SchoolMealsHubNY.org

- Centralized resource for New York State schools, advocates, and community members
- Organized by common areas of technical assistance
- Plant seeds for alternative breakfast service models

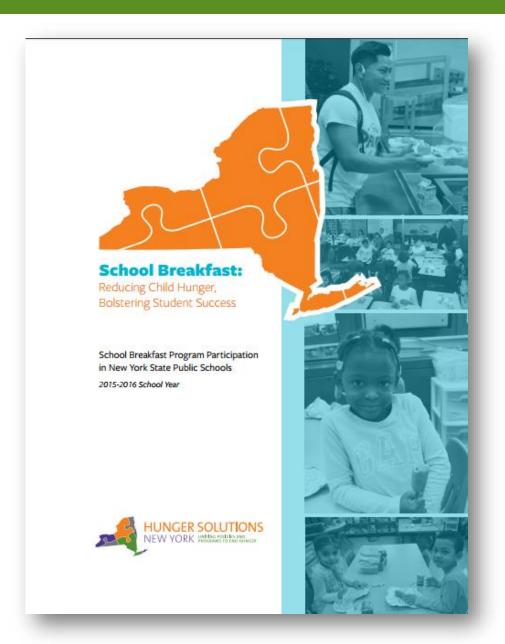
Plans for 2017-2018 SY



- Target CEP-Eligible Schools
 - Develop target list (high-poverty schools, other eligible LEAs)
 - Personalized emails
 - CEP Toolkit
- Leverage partnerships to spread the word (articles, guest blog posts, social media, conferences)
 - New York State School Nutrition Association
 - School Administrators Association of NYS
 - NYS Council of School Superintendents
 - NYS School Boards Association
 - NYS Parent Teacher Association
- State-level CEP Policy Brief
 - Highlight CEP participation from 2012-2013 to 2016-2017 school year
 - Impact of CEP from school's perspective
 - State-level barriers

State Barriers to CEP





Included in "Action Steps" in our school breakfast report:

- State education aid & school meal applications
- Current Refine state aid formulas to address potential repercussions from eliminating school meal applications when schools transition to CEP
- Limitations of the direct certification process
- Address local-level barriers to the current Direct Certification Matching Process.

State Barriers to CEP



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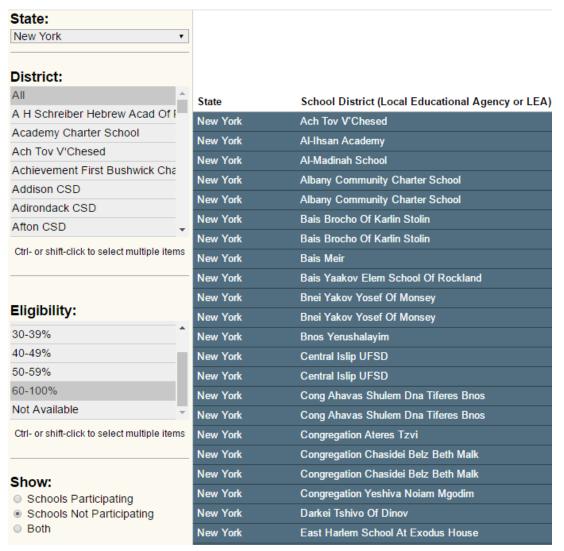
Household Income Eligibility Forms

- NYS Education Department provides to school districts upon approval of CEP application.
- Used to collect income information outside of the school meal programs.
- Some examples:
 - State Aid
 - Foundation Aid
 - Local funding
 - SAT registration fee waiver
 - Band instrument fee waiver

FRAC's CEP Database







How we use FRAC's CEP Database?

- Identify specific targets
- Inform our advocacy strategy
- Create state-specific outreach resources



Contact Information:

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Additional Resources

FRAC's Community Eligibility Page http://www.frac.org/community-eligibility

Database of Eligible and Participating Schools www.frac.org/research/resource-library/community-eligibility-cep-database

FRAC & CBPP Advocate's Guide to Promoting Community Eligibility http://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/cep-advocates-guide.pdf

USDA Community Eligibility Resource Center: www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/community-eligibility-provision





Sign up for our upcoming Meals Matter calls and webinars at www.frac.org/events

- Summer Meals Matter Expanding Access in Rural and Tribal Areas April 6, 1:00 2:00pm ET
- Breakfast Matters Every Student Succeeds Act and the Child Nutrition Programs April 13, 3:00-4:00pm ET
- Afterschool Meals Matter Organizing Site Visits with Elected Officials – April 20, 1:00-2:00pm ET



FRAC.org

Questions? Contact:

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Connect With FRAC







