



Taking Advantage of CEP in SY20-21

 **NO KID
HUNGRY** | by
SHARE OUR
STRENGTH

No Kid Hungry is a Campaign By Share Our Strength

We're an organization dedicated to ending hunger and poverty. Through proven, effective campaigns, we connect people who care to ideas that work.





Waivers!

*USDA has extended the following waivers
through June 30, 2021*

Flexibilities extended for SBP, NSLP, and CACFP:

- Meal pattern requirement waiver
 - *Additional flexibility:* OVS in high schools is not required
- Non-congregate waiver
- Meal service time waiver
- Parent/guardian pick-up waiver

Flexibilities not extended:

- Activity requirement waiver for CACFP
- SFSP waivers (unanticipated school closures)

Community Eligibility
Provision (CEP) Basics

Benefits of CEP

Bastrop ISD & Galena
Park ISD

Region 1 ESC

Q&A

AGENDA

What is the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)?

- Enables high-eligibility schools to provide breakfast and lunch to all students at no cost to them
 - Often heralded as the antidote to “school lunch shaming”
 - Students have equitable access to all meals – reduced stigma
 - School nutrition fund *can* benefit tremendously
 - Decreased administrative burden – no school meals applications!
- CEP is a 4-year cycle
- Schools, or groups of schools, must have an “Identified Student Percentage” (ISP) of 40% to operate CEP

Identified Student Percentage (ISP)

Identified students are categorically-eligible for free school meals and identified through **direct certification**.

Students are identified by their participation (or a household member's participation) in the following programs:

- **SNAP**: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- **TANF**: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- **FDPIR**: Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- **Medicaid**

Children who are...

- **in foster care,**
- **homeless,**
- **in Head Start/Early Head Start, and/or**
- **migrants**

should also be included in an ISP. However, their eligibility does not extend to siblings or other household members.

ISP =

$$\frac{\text{\# of "identified" students}}{\text{total student enrollment}} \times 100$$

CEP Reimbursement Pattern

Two categories of reimbursement: Free & Paid

Free reimbursement rate = ISP x 1.6

Paid reimbursement rate = 100% – (ISP x 1.6)

“Magic ISP” = 62.5% (62.5% x 1.6 = 100% of meals reimbursed at the federal free rate)

ISP	x 1.6 Multiplier	% of Meals Reimbursed at "Free" rate	% of Meals Reimbursed at "Paid" Rate
40%	x1.6	64%	36%
45%	x1.6	72%	28%
50%	x1.6	80%	20%
55%	x1.6	88%	12%
60%	x1.6	96%	4%
65%	x1.6	100%	0%

SNAP enrollment is increasing...

That means ISPs are increasing, too.

Across Texas, SNAP enrollment has gone up by ~18.7% from February to May 2020. Among individuals ages 5-17, SNAP enrollment has increased by ~16.6%.

Conduct direct certification often to ensure every newly eligible child is captured in your schools' ISPs.

Lock in a high (or higher!) ISP in SY20-21.



Grouping

- The 40% threshold may be met by:
 - an individual school,
 - a group of schools within the district, or
 - all schools in the district.
- Groupings can maximize reimbursement and participation by students.
- Consider...
 - ISP by school
 - Enrollment by school
 - Participation by meal type and fee category
 - Meal debt accrued each year, by school
- Consider grouping high ISP, high enrollment schools with lower ISP, lower enrollment schools

Need help? Reach out to us.

[FRAC Grouping and Financial Calculators](#)

[USDA Financial Estimator](#)

Example Grouping Scenario

	Identified Students	Enrollment	ISP	% of meals claimed at federal free rate	% of meals claimed at federal paid rate
School A	60	120	50%	92.8%	7.2%
School B	35	100	35%	92.8%	7.2%
School C	150	200	75%	92.8%	7.2%
GROUP OF SCHOOLS A, B, and C	245	420	58%	92.8%	7.2%
School D (adopting CEP but claiming on its own)	630	1000	63%	100%	0%
School E (not adopting CEP)	200	600	33%	N/A	N/A

Purpose

This website allows school districts and other stakeholders to group school for the **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) to maximize the federal funding a school district will receive**. To qualify for **CEP**, a group of schools must have an **Identified Student Percentage (ISP)** of 40 percent or higher. This tool is designed to support the implementation of **CEP**.

The website is designed to provide grouping for schools to assist school districts plan for community eligibility adoption.

- It allows school districts and other stakeholders to group schools for the **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)** in order to maximize the federal funding that a school district will receive.
- Schools need to have a minimum 40% **ISP** to qualify for **CEP**
- The group **ISP** is calculated by dividing the total number of identified students across all schools in the group by the total enrollment across all schools in the group.
- When schools participate in **CEP** as a group, they all use the same **ISP** to claim federal reimbursements for school meals served.

Community eligibility allows high-poverty schools to offer school breakfast and lunch at no cost to all students. It helps school districts across the country reach a larger range of students and improve nutrition among students in poverty.

About FRAC

Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) is the leading national nonprofit organization working to eradicate poverty-related hunger and undernutrition in the United States. FRAC was instrumental in the creation and implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision. FRAC continues to provide technical assistance to school districts, state agencies, and anti-hunger advocates on strategies to successfully implement community eligibility.

Welcome epia@strength.org

You are currently logged in as **epia@strength.org**. [Log out?](#)

[Financial Calculator Tools](#)

fraccep.org

Benefits of CEP

- Simplified counting and claiming – only need to count the **total** number of meals served by meal type.
- Reduced administrative burden – no more school meals applications!
 - State Compensatory Education (SCE) and E-Rate funding use ISP*1.6 used as proxy for F/RP data.
 - Title I funds can use ISP, ISP*1.6, or participation in SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid to distribute Title I funds within districts.
- Improved student behavioral and academic outcomes.
- Reduced stigma.
- Decreased financial stress for parents.
- No more school meal debt!





Why CEP in SY20-21?

CEP will help with...

- Counting and claiming for new and more complex school meals operations
 - No more counting meals by fee category
 - Can use a clicker or tally to make cafeteria meal service quicker
 - No need to swipe student IDs or use pin pads
- Easier training for non-food service staff (e.g. teachers) who may be involved with serving and counting meals this year
- Student and staff safety at the point of service
 - No need to swipe student IDs or use pin pads
 - Fewer surfaces to touch



Why CEP in SY20-21? (cont'd.)

CEP will help with...

- Decreasing financial stress among students and families due to COVID-19
 - Approximately 3 million people, or 20% of Texas's 13 million person workforce, have filed for unemployment since March
- Concerns around meal debt
 - No collecting of fees = no more meal debt!
 - In schools operating standard counting and claiming this year, meal debt will likely be a larger problem than last
- Meal service for the next four years! CEP is a 4-year cycle.



Communicate with District Administration

- Ask to include CEP in the discussions around back-to-school
- Promote CEP as an option that will make the transition back to school easier for the district, school nutrition staff, teachers, custodians, and students.
- Include school business officials in the conversation

[Template Letter to School Administrators](#)

[Talking Points for District Leadership](#)

[CEP Financial Considerations for School Business Officials](#)



**Declare your intent
to elect CEP**

by August 31.

Additional Resources

- No Kid Hungry [Strategies for Finding Success with CEP](#)
- No Kid Hungry [CEP Financial Considerations for School Business Officials](#)
- No Kid Hungry [SNAP Outreach Toolkit](#)
- FRAC [Community Eligibility: The Key to Hunger-Free Schools, SY2019-2020](#)

Visit our website: <http://bestpractices.nokidhungry.org/programs/community-eligibility-provision>

Thank you!

Emily Pia

Program Manager, No Kid Hungry's Center for Best Practices

epia@strength.org

Savannah Box

General Manager of Food Service,
Southwest Foodservice Excellence in
partnership with Bastrop ISD



Bastrop
Independent School District



Brian Aubin

Director of Student Nutrition Services
Galena Park ISD



FRESH FOOD.
FRESH MINDS.

Carmen Ocañas-Lerma

Food and Nutrition Program Director
Region 1 Education Service Center



Community Eligibility Provision



Carmen Ocañas-Lerma

Region One ESC

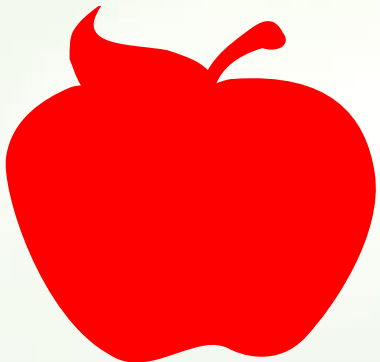
Community Eligibility Provision

- **What is it?**
 - *How can it work for my District?*
 - *How does it benefit other educational programs?*
 - *What is the financial impact on the Child Nutrition Program and at the local level*

Community Eligibility Provision

Am I Eligible for CEP?

- Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) requires a minimum of 40 percent identified students in schools
 - single campus
 - a group of campuses
 - or entire contracting entity
 - as of April 1 of the prior year of implementation
 - **Must have a record of compliance with NSLP and SBP requirements**



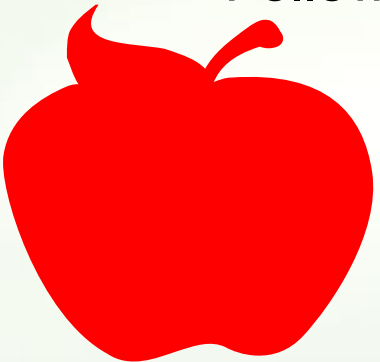
Community Eligibility Provision - Timeline

- October 1 – March 30: CE determines if operating a special provision is feasible
- March 1- 20 – CE submits information on eligibility and enrollment in TXUNPS. This applies to all CE's not just those who apply for CEP
- April 15 - June 30 – Ce must complete the CEP Worksheet working with their ESC CNP Specialist. ESC submits worksheet to TDA
- May 1st – TDA publishes list of eligible CEs and schools on Squaremeals.
- **June 30th** – CE's must notify TDA that they will continue to operate CEP and about any changes in school structure that will impact the special provision option operation

Community Eligibility Provision

Decision Time

- Report the identified student and enrollment numbers, by site, to TDA by April 1st.
- Analyze the data and business options to decide what would be best for business and best for the CN program.
- Fill out the application in TX-UNPS.
- Follow the regulations



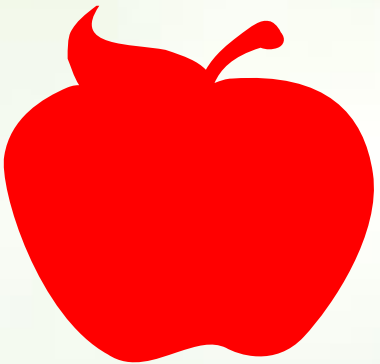
Community Eligibility Provision

Approval Process

- The State agency would be required to confirm the LEAs eligibility to participate in CEP
- USDA requires the State agency to review documentation submitted by the LEA to ensure that :
 - **Requirements are met**
 - **Statistical Analysis Worksheet (SAW) is completed**

Region One Schools

- 47 School Districts in Region One
 - Edinburg CISD New
 - La Feria ISD New
 - San Isidro ISD New
- Several at 100% Free Reimbursement



Community Eligibility Provision

Other Programs



Title I



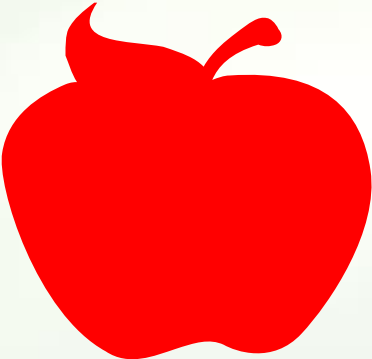
State Compensatory Education



E Rate



Guidance is posted on TDA Website at www.squaremeals.org

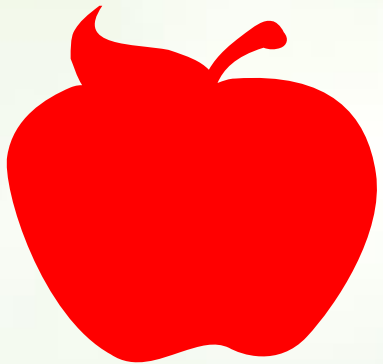


McAllen ISD

Provision 2 to CEP

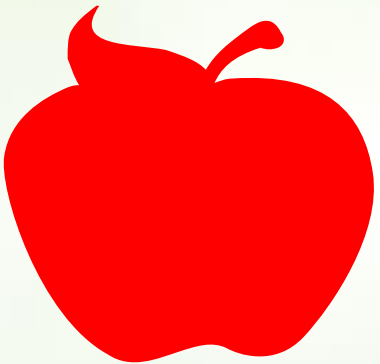
2018-2019

Enrollment	22,560
# of Schools	33



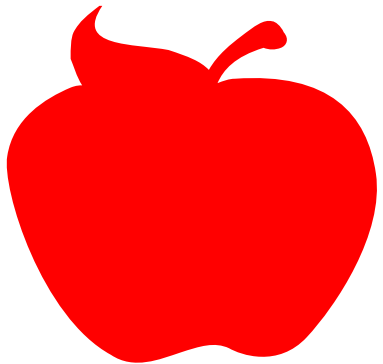
CNP Free/Reduced Percentage

- 65% 1997-1998 Base Year to 2012-2013 Provision 2



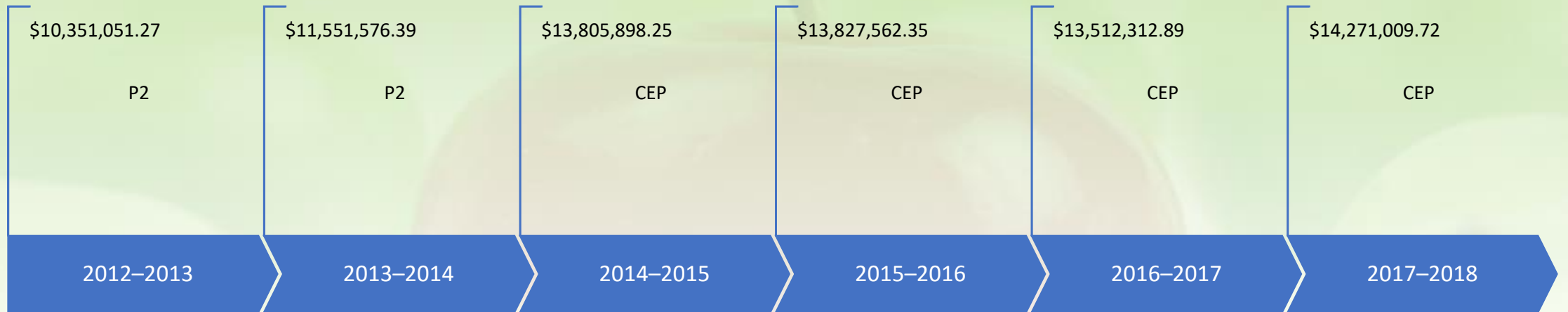
82.10% 2014-2015 to 2017-2018 1st 4 year Cycle

87% 2018-2019 Year 1 of Renewal

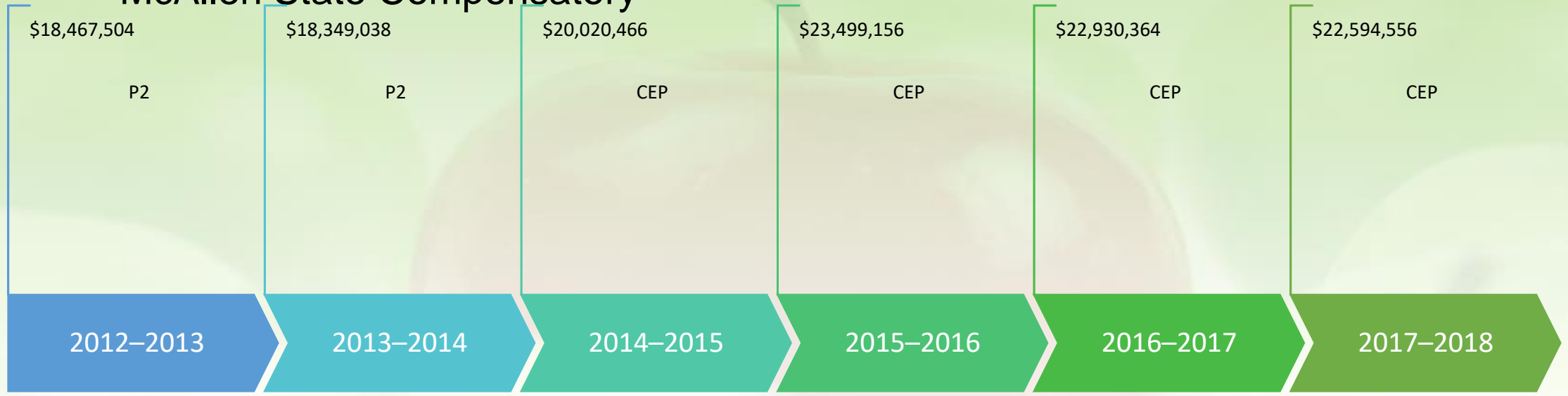


2019-2020 – CEP Report Shows an increase of 1.2% approximately

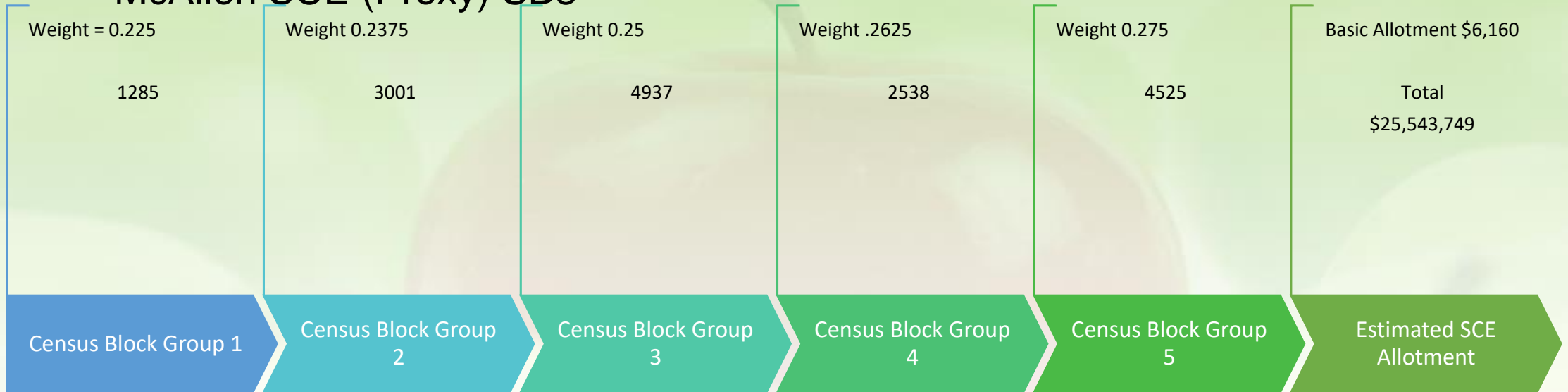
- McAllen ISD NSLP Reimbursements



- **McAllen State Compensatory**



- McAllen SCE (Proxy) SB3



Resources Available

www.squaremeals.org

ARM Section 5 Special Provisions

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/nslp/community-eligibility-provision-resource-center>

CEP Fact Sheet

CEP Perceived Barriers

Webinars - Series





**Questions or
Comments**

- Region One ESC

Staff

Carmen Ocanas-Lerma
Food & Nutrition Program Director
(956)984-6124
colerma@esc1.net

Iris S. Perez
Food & Nutrition Program Specialist
(956) 984-6102
iperez@esc1.net

Kim L. Keller
Food & Nutrition Program
Specialist
(956) 984-6121
klkeller@esc1.net



Q & A

Please enter questions into the Q&A box.



THANK YOU