



ASSEMBLYWOMAN • DISTRICT 80

**LORENA**  
Gonzalez★



## **New State Program Delivers Free Local Meals for Seniors**

I'm reaching out today to make sure you know about a first-in-the-nation program California has launched to deliver free meals to older adults who are currently unable to obtain and prepared meals and who meet certain age, health status and income requirements.

The **Great Plates Delivered** program is designed to help adults 65 and older and adults 60-64 who are at high-risk from COVID-19 stay home and stay healthy by delivering three (3) free, nutritious meals a day. The program is funded through a partnership between federal, state and local government and provides essential economic stimulus to local businesses and workers during the COVID crisis.

**In this email:**

- **Who is eligible to receive meals through the Great Plates Delivered program?**
- **When and how do seniors apply?**
- **How does Great Plates Delivered work?**
- **How long will the program run?**
- **Additional Resources for Seniors**

**Who is eligible to receive meals through the Great Plates Delivered program?**

**Please note that program capacity is limited.** To qualify for the Great Plates program, applicants must:

- 65 years old or older, or 60-64 and at high-risk as defined by the CDC, including one of the following :
  - COVID-19 positive (as documented by a state / local public health official or medical health professional), **OR**
  - Have been exposed to COVID-19 (as documented by a state / local public health official or medical health professional), **OR**

- Have an underlying condition
- Live alone or with one other program-eligible adult
- NOT currently receiving assistance from other state or federal nutrition assistance programs
  - Those who receive IHSS services, health care coverage through Medi-Cal or other public assistance are eligible to participate in Great Plates Delivered as long as they meet this specific program's criteria for eligibility. Receiving other types of public assistance is allowable, just not state or federal nutrition assistance programs.
  - Those who are already participating in other federally funded food programs, such as Cal Fresh and the Older Americans Act senior meal program, may seek other home delivered food resources by calling 2-1-1 or visiting [www.211sandiego.org](http://www.211sandiego.org) .
- Have an annual income within the following range:
  - \$ 24,981- \$ 74,940 (single person household)
  - \$ 33,821- \$ 101,460 (two-person household).
  - Those who have an income BELOW \$ 24,981 for a single person household or BELOW \$ 33,820 for a two-person household are not eligible for the program. However, they may be eligible for CalFresh benefits or other food and meal programs. Please call 2-1-1 to learn about other resources.
- Affirm an inability to prepare or obtain meals

### **When and how do seniors apply?**

The program is being run by Aging & Independence Services, which is a division of our County Health and Human Services Agency. **Eligible seniors are to call the Aging & Independence Services Call Center at (800) 339-4661 and select option "7." Or, they can call 2-1-1. Older adults are encouraged to learn more about the eligibility requirements and apply by visiting [www.aging.sandiegocounty.gov/greatplates](http://www.aging.sandiegocounty.gov/greatplates) .**

### **How does Great Plates Delivered work?**

Local administrators partner with local restaurants and food providers to deliver three free, nutritious meals daily (one delivery of three meals per day) to qualified seniors enrolled in the program. Eligible seniors will be matched with one participating, local restaurant near them and will be assigned to that particular restaurant for the duration of the program.

Restaurants have been selected to help meet the dietary and cultural needs and preferences of our diverse communities as much as possible. Background checks of those facilitating deliveries have been required, so as to help ensure the safety of participating seniors.

### **How long will the program run?**

**Great Plates Delivered** is currently set to run mid-May until June 10, 2020, which is the timeframe currently approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The state intends on requesting an extension for the program.

### **Additional Resources for Seniors**

For more available resources for seniors, visit the San Diego County's [Aging & Independence Services website](#) .

My office remains open to serve constituents of Mid-City and South San Diego County who may have questions on these updates and other important state resources. **To speak to someone over the phone, contact my District Office during regular business hours, Monday-Friday: (619) 338-8090. To reach someone by email, contact [Assemblymember.Gonzalez@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Gonzalez@assembly.ca.gov)**

You can find the latest information on a variety of available local and state resources [on my website](#) .

Stay safe. We will get through this together.

### **New State Program Delivers Free Food for Seniors**

I am reaching out to you today to make sure you know of a first in the nation program launched in California that will provide free food to older adults who are unable to obtain and prepare their own food. There are specific age, health status and income requirements.

The **Great Plates Delivered program** is designed to help adults age 65 and older and adults 60-64 who are at high risk for COVID-19 stay healthy and at home. The program delivers three (3) nutritious meals a day. This program is made possible by a collaboration between the federal, state and local governments and to give economic stimulus to small businesses and their workers during the COVID crisis.

In this email:

- **¿ Who is eligible to receive food through the Great Plates Delivered program?**
- **¿ How can you apply the elderly?**
- **How does the program work?**
- **How long will the program last?**
- **Additional resources for older people**

¿ **Who is eligible to receive food through the Great Plates Delivered program?**

**Please note that capacity in the program is limited.** To qualify for the Great Plates program, applicants:

- Must be 65 years of age or older, or 60-64 and high risk as defined by the CDC, including one of the following:
  - COVID-19 positive result (documented by a state / local health officer or doctor), **OR**
    - Has been exposed to COVID-19) documented by a state / local health officer or doctor), **OR**
    - Has an underlying condition
  - Live alone or with an adult who is eligible for the program
  - You are NOT currently receiving assistance from another state or federal nutrition assistance program
  - People who receive IHSS services, health coverage through Medi-Cal, or other public assistance are eligible to participate in Great Plates Delivered as long as they meet the specific eligibility criteria. Receiving other types of public assistance is permitted, except for state or federal nutrition assistance programs.
  - People participating in other federal food programs, such as the CalFresh and Older Americans Act senior program, can search for other delivered food resources by calling 2-1-1 or visiting [www.211sandiego.org](http://www.211sandiego.org).
  - Annual income between:
    - \$ 24,981- \$ 74,940 (single person home)
    - \$ 33,821- \$ 101,460 (two person household)
  - People with income UNDER \$ 24,981 for a one-person household or UNDER \$ 33,820 for a two-person household are not eligible for the program. However, they may be eligible for CalFresh benefits and other food programs. Please call 2-1-1 to learn more about these resources.
  - Affirm the inability to prepare or obtain food.

#### **How can older people apply?**

The program is coordinated by the Aging and Independence Services, a division of the Health and Human Services agency. **Elderly people who are eligible should call the Call Center for Aging and Independence Services (800) 339-4661 and select option "7." Or, they can call 2-1-1. It is recommended that older people learn more about the eligibility requirements and submit an application by visiting [www.aging.sandiegocounty.gov/greatplates](http://www.aging.sandiegocounty.gov/greatplates)**

#### **How does the program work?**

Local administrators have collaborated with local restaurants and food providers to deliver three nutritious meals a day (one delivery for three meals a day) to seniors enrolled in the program. Eligible seniors will be combined with a nearby participating local restaurant and will be assigned to that restaurant during the program.

The restaurants that have been selected must have the ability to cook with the culture and diet of the diverse community in mind. Background checks have been provided to those who will deliver the food to ensure the safety of older people participating in the program.

## How long will the program last?

The **Great Plates Delivered** program **runs** from mid-May through June 10, 2020, which is the time frame approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The state is trying to request an extension for the program.

### Additional Resources for Older People

For more resources for older people, visit the San Diego County [Aging and Independence Services website](#) .

My office remains open to serve constituents of Mid-City and South San Diego County who have questions about this latest news and other important state resources. **To speak to someone on the phone, please contact my District Office during regular business hours, Monday through Friday: (619) 338-8090. To contact by email, contact: [Assemblymember.Gonzalez @ assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Gonzalez@assembly.ca.gov) .**

You can find the latest information on [a variety of state and local resources available on my website](#) .

Take care. Together we will overcome this.

Sincerely,



Lorena Gonzalez  
Assemblymember, 80th District

[visit MY WEBSITE](#)

[send ME AN EMAIL](#)

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**Capitol Office:**  
State Capitol  
PO Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0080  
Tel: (916) 319-2080  
Fax: (916) 319-2180

**District Office:**  
1350 Front Street  
Suite 6022  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Tel: 619-338-8090  
Fax: 619-338-8099