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Interfaith Sustainable  
Food Collaborative

# February 2021 Newsletter

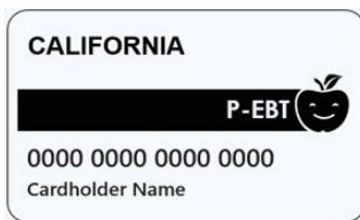


Image from "Mojave Desert News"

## March 3: P-EBT Workshop

Help 72,000 children in Contra Costa County get food benefits through Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT)! Interfaith Food, in partnership with the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, will host a workshop providing information that will make sure all who are eligible for the program are enrolled. To register please email [laura@interfaithfood.org](mailto:laura@interfaithfood.org). For background and next steps your faith community can take now to spread the word about P-EBT please read the article below, "Promoting New P-EBT Benefits and Enrollment."

## March 14: Halal/Kosher Workshop

In recent years, many slaughter houses within the North and East Bay have closed. This has led to an increased outsourcing of livestock for slaughter. It has also affected our neighbors who have dietary needs, including those following Halal and Kosher traditions. With support from the USDA, Interfaith Food is hoping to connect local livestock producers and consumers within the niche meat market by bridging the gap between the secular and faith-based communities. With this in mind, we will be hosting a workshop on March 14 called, Exploring Options for Relationships with Local Small Livestock Producers. Centering on Jewish and Muslim traditions, this workshop will have multiple segments

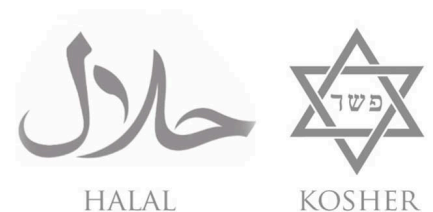


Image from Blog "Vive Halal"

including a Zoom conversation about religious dietary law and perspectives from ranchers in the area. If you are interested in learning more about this workshop, please contact [stephanie@interfaithfood.org](mailto:stephanie@interfaithfood.org) for more information.

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Image from "Berkeley Food Network"

## Feeding Families: The Center for Food, Faith & Justice

This month we are highlighting the Saturday Breakfast Program that is run by the Center for Food, Faith and Justice (CFFJ) in Berkeley. CFFJ is a nondenominational nonprofit that is in community with the McGee Ave Baptist Church congregation in South Berkeley. CFFJ hosts an array of initiatives, including cooking classes, fellowship programs for young people interested in exploring community health and nutrition, and a fellowship for folks interested in urban agroecology.

CFFJ was one of Interfaith Food's \$2000 mini grant recipients this past year, with the grant supporting their proposal to advance their school breakfast program. The staff at CFFJ has been rolling with the changes caused by the pandemic, creating a new Saturday breakfast pick-up program for students and their families. They receive their fresh meals at the organization's host site at the McGee Ave Baptist Church in South Berkeley. While the schools have been able to provide some meal support during the weekdays, the CFFJ community altered their program to provide supplemental support over the weekend. The Saturday Breakfast Program, led by Chef Mark, has been providing about 30 fresh, plant-based meals each Saturday morning since the program started in early January.

Special thanks to Albertson's Foundation Hunger Is campaign for supporting the mini-grants in 2020.

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## Save These Dates!

Mark your calendar for these upcoming Interfaith Food workshops. Each will be on-line/virtual.

**March 3rd:** 7pm, P-EBT Workshop

**March 11th:** 11am, Sacred People, Sacred Earth: Global Interfaith Action for Climate Justice

**March 11th:** 12pm, Local "Sacred People, Sacred Earth" event at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek

**March 14th:** Halal/Kosher Workshop



Donate to Interfaith Food!

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## Promoting New P-EBT Benefits & Enrollment

P-EBT enrollment has transitioned into an additional period since we last mentioned it in our July 2020 Newsletter, this period formally being called Pandemic EBT Extension. Children who previously received P-EBT benefits during the 2019-2020 school year are automatically enrolled in these new benefits. Extension of benefits is evaluated using last year's

## Sacred People, Sacred Earth: Day of Action

On March 11, we are all invited to join in a global day of interfaith action to call for climate justice. Led by the GreenFaith International (GFI) Network, grassroots faith activists will come together, both virtually and in-person, to make [10 demands](#) that call for climate leadership guided by compassion, love and justice.

information and cards will be generated as they were previously. New cards started rolling out on October 26, 2020, but there has been some delay due to mail delivery challenges. County Service Departments cannot generate cards, but they can check the status of your extension. For specific details please contact the P-EBT Extension Help Center at 877-328-9677. Frequently asked questions can be accessed online in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Chinese](#).

[Read More](#)

What you can do as a faith institution:

- **Sound the alarm** at your faith institution. Get a commitment from your church to ring the bells, blow the shofar at your synagogue, sound the gong, or make a call to prayer at 12pm noon on Thursday, March 11, 2021.
- **Sign** the [Sacred People, Sacred Earth Statement](#) and 10 Demands.
- **Check out [this map](#)** to see action events that are being planned in your region.

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