

Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations (MEHKO) Block Grant



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What are MEHKOs?

MEHKOs are a home-based food business that prepare and sell meals directly to customers to be consumed on-site, taken to go, or delivered, like a mini-restaurant

In 2019 the California Retail Food Code (CRFC) established MEHKOs as a new type of food facility

In California, there are 58 counties and 4 cities that act as the Local Enforcement Agency for the CRFC.

Since 2019, 9 jurisdictions have authorized a MEHKO program. (Riverside, Imperial, Lake, Alameda, Solano, Santa Barbara, City of Berkeley, San Mateo, and Sierra)



MEHKO Information

- ☐ Operated by a resident of a private home or apartment
- ☐ Food must be prepared and served the same day
- ☐ Maximum of 90 meals per week
- ☐ Must sell directly to consumers for onsite dining, delivery or take-out
- ☐ Limited to a maximum of \$100,000 gross annual sales
- ☐ Restricted from operating as a cottage food operator, caterer, temporary event vendor or mobile food vendor in the home
- ☐ Requires jurisdictional Ordinance, designated program and application process and enforcement capabilities
- ☐ Local Jurisdictions cannot impose additional restrictions on MEHKOs for zoning purposes



MEHKO Grant

EH Department utilization (using EH staff- not contracting out) to:

Public Outreach in the form of workshops, community meetings, stakeholder meetings in unincorporated and incorporated cities in Nevada County regarding MEHKOs and the State Law

Program Development to include report for Board on

- Public/Stakeholder Feedback
- Inspection and Staff Capacity (EH and PH)
- Permitting, well testing, and food safety requirements of operators
- Enforcement and staff Training
- Development of DRAFT Ordinance



Does not require Nevada County to implement MEHKO

Grant Timelines

June 2024 – February 2025

- I. Public Outreach in form of workshops, stakeholder meetings , Data reporting on MEHKO feedback (Authorize or Decline)
- II. Website update for Feedback and direct emails to Stakeholders

February 2025 – May 2025

- I. Program Development to include report back to Board
 - Outreach and Feedback findings
 - Staff Capacity (EH and PH)
 - Permitting, Enforcement and Staff Training
 - Report findings to Board of Supervisors for further direction



Recommendations

Staff recommends the Board of Supervisors approve the EH Department to accept the MEHKO Block Grant in the amount of \$50,098.51



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Thank you