



USDA Commodity Foods

The USDA Commodity Foods program supports nutrition assistance to schools by providing high quality meats, dairy, and produce products at minimal cost. The USDA purchases food from farmers and growers across America and then makes it available for purchase, at a reduced cost, to public agencies like school districts.

However, many charter schools have no awareness of the program. The few that do usually cannot participate because they lack the capacity to effectively order, process and store large amounts of food for their students.



In 2011, REAL Journey Academies founded the Charter School “Cooperative” (Co-op) making it possible for California charter schools to participate in the USDA Commodities Program and collectively benefit from significant cost savings. The vision of this Co-op is to provide California charter schools with the opportunity to receive monetary credits by incorporating USDA Foods their meals program.

The Co-op is now managed by Partnerships to Uplift Communities (PUC). PUC works with B4YM to manage all logistics involved in getting the finished meals to your students. There is no out of pocket cost to your charter school to participate in the Co-op. A single page application and MOU are the only required forms for entry. There is no additional work involved for your staff once enrolled. The Co-op staff will handle all paperwork, order the food, arrange transportation, and monitor compliance. Better 4 You Meals will pick up, store and ensure the safety and quality of all purchased food. Each school member receives regular reports on food ordered, including your projected credit statements.

The Co-op and B4YM take advantage of all commodity purchase opportunities, therefore maximizing the monetary credit available to your organization. Currently, over 75 charter schools participate in the Co-op and in 2013-14 they collectively received over \$1 million dollars in monetary credits back to their schools.



Contact Better 4 You Meals at info@better4youmeals.com or (323) 838-5555.

Set up a tour of our facility! 5743 Smithway Street, Suite 103, Commerce, CA 90040