

Micro-Enterprise Home Kitchen Operations: MEHKOs

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CONTRA COSTA
HEALTH

What is a MEHKO?



Home-Based Restaurant

Dine In, Pick Up, or Delivery

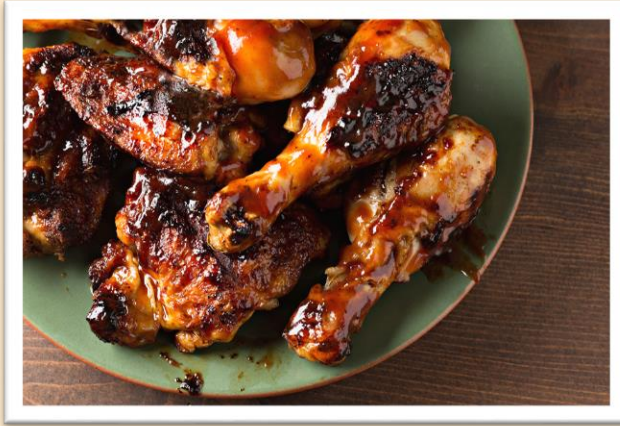
Health Permit Required

- Annual Routine Inspection
- Complaint Investigations
- Food Borne Illness Investigations

Small-scale (Updated 2023)

- 30 meals/day and 90 meals/week
- \$100K in gross annual sales

Examples of MEHKOs



Tacos, Tamales, Dumplings, Pasta, BBQ, Hamburgers...

Community Benefits of MEHKOs

- Increased **economic opportunities**
- Encourages **safer and legal** home businesses
- Allows people to learn **small-scale** food businesses
- Enables **in-home care** for families while still generating income
- Creates additional **family income**
- Provides food in **remote locations and food deserts**



Public Health Impacts

Cross-Contamination Risks

- No **dedicated sinks** or **mechanical sanitation** equipment
- No prohibition on **non-food workers** in kitchens
- No limitations on **consumer access** in facilities
- No limitations on the presence of **animals** in kitchens

MEHKO Programs in California

Fully Authorized MEHKOs

- Riverside County (May 2019)
- Imperial County (January 2020)
- Lake County (January 2021)
- *Alameda County (May 2021)**
- *Solano County (May 2021)**
- Santa Barbara County (June 2021)
- *City of Berkeley (July 2021)**
- Sierra County (November 2021)

Temporarily Authorized MEHKOs

- *San Mateo County (Sept. 2021-23)**
- San Diego County (2022-23)
- *Santa Clara County (March 2023)**

Formally Declined to Authorize MEHKOs

- Siskiyou County (January 2019)
- San Joaquin County (March 2020)

**Bay Area*

MEHKO Funding

Budget Act of 2022

- \$5 million in competitive grants for non-profits
 - Perform education & outreach
 - Negotiate rates
 - May provide direct support
- *\$3 million for local health depts and city code enforcement
 - Program development
 - Initial inspections
 - Enforcement activities

**CCH is eligible for a portion of the funding*



Discretion to Authorize

The governing body (Contra Costa Board of Supervisors) has the authority to opt into or out of the MEHKO program for the entire county, including incorporated cities.

-- *California Retail Food Code 114367*

MEHKOs and Contra Costa

- Option 1 { • Temporary Authorization
- Option 2 { • Full Authorization
- Option 3 { • No Action

Staff Recommendation

Option 1

- Temporary Authorization

Option 2

- Full Authorization

Option 3

- No Action

Next Steps

CONSIDER update from Contra Costa Health Services, Environmental Health Division (EHD) on options for Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations (MEHKOs) authorization and **PROVIDE** direction to staff.

- If authorized, return to the Board with:
 - Ordinance (temporary or full)
 - Revised EHD Fee Schedule Resolution

Thank you



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