



Warm Meals @ North East: Free Halal Meals For 1,000 Lower-Income Households

Description

For 1,000 lower-income households in the North East, dinner is about to get a little less stressful. The **Warm Meals @ North East** programme, launched on 21 August 2026 by OCBC and North East CDC with support from MSF, will give more than 3,000 residents in Tampines, Punggol and Pasir Ris-Changi access to free, halal-certified warm meals from food lockers near their homes.

The programme was officially launched by Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for Social and Family Development, alongside Mr Baey Yam Keng, Mayor of the North East District, and OCBC's Ms Koh Ching Ching. It is funded by a combined \$500,000 commitment, split evenly between OCBC and North East CDC.

How the Meal Credits Work

Each participating household receives \$500 in meal credits, which works out to roughly 165 meals. Credits are disbursed progressively from September 2026 and land directly in a beneficiary's account through a mobile app, so there is no paperwork chase involved once a household is enrolled.

- \$500 in meal credits per household, about 165 meals
- Redeemable at around 30 food lockers near HDB rental block void decks
- Lunch redemption window: roughly 12pm to 3pm
- Dinner redemption window: roughly 5pm to 8pm

Redemption is a simple QR code scan through the app, and meals are prepared fresh daily just before each service window, which is why the redemption windows are kept tight at around three hours. The menu spans different cuisines and is rotated regularly, with options like creamy spaghetti with roasted chicken, stir-fried chicken udon, rendang chicken, vegetarian tofu with mushroom sauce rice and teriyaki fish rice.

Why Warm Meals, Specifically

Minister Masagos put it plainly at the launch: many families want to cook regularly at home but run into caregiving duties, irregular work hours or other time-pressured commitments that make it harder some days than others. Warm Meals @ North East is designed to sit alongside existing support like ComLink+, Comcare, CDC Vouchers and the Assurance Package, rather than replace any of it, giving families an additional option specifically for the days when cooking is not realistic.



Source: OCBC

It complements rather than duplicates what is already available, which is a distinction MSF has been careful about across its recent family support announcements this year.

Where This Goes Next

The initial rollout covers Tampines, Punggol and Pasir Ris-Changi, with the programme delivering 165,000 warm meals over its first year starting September 2026. OCBC and North East CDC have both signalled plans to expand the programme to reach more lower-income households across the North East District as it establishes itself, so this initial phase is likely the starting point rather than the ceiling.

Date Created

28/08/2026

Author

nuraisyah