



## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

August 16, 2024

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), I am writing to express my appreciation for the support that many TEFAP state agencies are providing as we continue to address delivery delays of USDA Foods within the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). As you may be aware, delays from a contracted national multi-food warehouse are impacting inventories at CSFP and FDPIR sites and, as a result, the availability of a sufficient variety and quantity of foods for program participants. While USDA continues deploying all possible resources for immediate relief while working with the contractor to resolve underlying issues, it will take additional time to resume regular, on-time deliveries.

Some TEFAP State agencies are supplementing CSFP or FDPIR distributions with TEFAP foods or with private and public donations and encourage this support, and some have also expressed interest in or received approval to provide USDA Foods to CSFP and FDPIR participants under a program option known as a situation of distress. This is a dynamic situation, and USDA is rapidly pursuing responsive solutions to help program participants access the food they need. We strongly encourage TEFAP state agencies to put in place a situation of distress option. USDA is committed to replacing the USDA Foods used and reimbursing TEFAP State agencies for transportation costs associated with approved distributions, to the extent that resources allow.

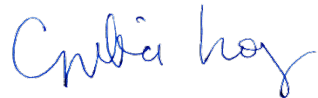
My staff are ready and willing to help coordinate this effort and assist you in reaching out to nearby CSFP and FDPIR program partners. USDA's goal is to make this process as easy as possible for all parties involved. I encourage you to reach out to your FNS Regional Office if you have not already done so to discuss pursuit of this option or reconsider this option based on your CSFP and FDPIR program partners' needs and available inventories.

Please see USDA FNS' August 2, 2024, guidance on how to pursue this option. We ask that interested TEFAP State agencies complete the TEFAP State Agency Request Template for Household Feeding (Attachment) or submit the information in a similar format by Friday, August 23, 2024.

If you have any questions or need additional time to apply, please contact your FNS Regional Office contacts to discuss. We will work with you to the greatest extent possible.

Thank you for your consideration and partnership in assisting us meet the emergency food needs of CSFP and FDPIR participants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia Long". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cynthia Long  
Deputy Under Secretary  
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

## **TEFAP STATE AGENCY REQUEST TEMPLATE**

### **Federal Multi-Food Warehouse Situation of Distress: Service to CSFP/FDPIR State Agencies and ITOs**

Subject to FNS' approval of this request, TEFAP State agencies may provide USDA Foods (donated foods) from current inventories, either at the distributing or recipient agency level, for distribution to CSFP and FDPIR households in need of food assistance due to the current Federal multi-food warehouse situation of distress. Such distribution may continue for the period that FNS has determined to be necessary (duration listed below) to meet the needs of such households. Following initial approval, FNS will consider an extension to any FNS-approved household distribution at the request of the TEFAP State agency, should circumstances warrant.

State agencies should consult with their FNS Regional Office and refer to 7 CFR 250.70 to review the requirements related to reporting and recordkeeping, replacement of USDA Foods used, and reimbursement of transportation costs associated with such distributions. Per 7 CFR 250.70, provide the following information:

DATE:

STATE AGENCY:

NAME OF STATE AGENCY CONTACT:

CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS:

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:

CONTACT PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

DATE REQUESTED TO BEGIN HOUSEHOLD DISTRIBUTION:

DATE REQUESTED TO CEASE HOUSEHOLD DISTRIBUTION:

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PEOPLE REQUIRING ASSISTANCE:

APPROXIMATE QUANTITY AND TYPES OF FOOD NEEDED:

THE NUMBER AND LOCATION OF DISTRIBUTION SITES:

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS PRIMARILY IMPACTED (CSFP, FDPIR, OR BOTH):

INDICATE WHICH CSFP OR FDPIR STATE AGENCY/ITO THE TEFAP STATE AGENCY IS  
COORDINATING WITH:

DID THE CSFP/FDPIR STATE AGENCY/ITO DIRECTOR INDICATE THE FOODS OFFERED ARE AMENABLE TO STATE/ITO (Y/N):

IS THE CURRENT FOODS INVENTORY SUFFICIENT TO OPERATE A HOUSEHOLD DISTRIBUTION or IS THERE ENOUGH INVENTORY TO SUPPORT THIS REQUEST, WITHOUT A REDUCTION IN SERVICE TO TEFAP PARTICIPANTS? (Y/N):

TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, THIS REQUEST IS BASED SOLELY ON THE NEED TO MEET PARTICIPANT NEEDS AS A RESULT OF FOOD INVENTORY SHORTAGES DUE TO THE NATIONAL MULTI-FOOD WAREHOUSE DELIVERY DELAYS (Y/N):

REQUESTING STATE OFFICIAL	TITLE	SIGNATURE	DATE