



Food and
Nutrition
Service

April 8, 2020

SUBJECT: Request for Flexibilities in Response to COVID-19

1320
Braddock
Place
Alexandria,
VA
22314

TO: William Ludwig
Regional Administrator
Southwest Regional Office

This letter is in response to the March 24, 2020 correspondence from Chickasaw Nation WIC requesting flexibility in the food package requirements in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) as a result of significant impacts to providing WIC program services to participants due to COVID-19.

Chickasaw Nation WIC cited significant impacts on vendors' abilities to maintain inventory of certain WIC-eligible products and requests a waiver of select minimum requirements and specifications and/or the maximum monthly allowances as outlined in 7 CFR 246.10(e)(9)-(12) for specific supplemental foods. USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) does not approve the request to increase the cash-value voucher for any participant category as USDA FNS does not have the authority to waive the the cash-value voucher amount under section 2204(a)(1) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127).

USDA FNS appreciates Chickasaw Nation WIC's commitment to addressing the operational challenges impeding the delivery of WIC benefits to needy women, infants and children.

Sincerely,

SARAH WIDOR
Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division