



Food and Nutrition
Service

May 12, 2020

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

SUBJECT: Revised Approval of Disaster Household Distribution in Response to the National Emergency Declaration Due to COVID-19

TO: Kurt Messner
Regional Administrator
Northeast Regional Office

This memorandum is in response to Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) request to revise its use of U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foods to operate disaster household distribution. This request is in response to food assistance needs resulting from the COVID-19 National Emergency declared by the President of the United States on March 13, 2020.

DESE requested that USDA revise its initial approval to use USDA Foods for disaster household distribution to a revised list of targeted counties and sites to operate disaster assistance. DESE also requested to revise its estimate of individuals and serve a cumulative total of 137,683 individuals over the course of the 30-day approval period.

Approval is granted for DESE to amend its list of targeted communities and sites, and total number of individuals served to a revised cumulative total of 137,683 individuals over the course of the 30-day approval period. DESE is authorized to use the previously approved USDA Foods for disaster household distribution to continue providing food assistance to impacted households. DESE must also follow the same Terms of Approval as stated in our original approval letter dated April 25, 2020.

Should DESE need additional assistance, other resources may be available through FEMA, <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/04/12/coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-purchase-and-distribution-food-eligible-public>, and through other USDA programs such as Farmer's Feed Families, <https://www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food-to-usda/farmers-to-families-food-box>.

Diane M. Kriviski
Deputy Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs