

Food and Nutrition
Service

May 19, 2020

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

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

TO: Willie Taylor
Regional Administrator
Southeast Regional Office

This memorandum is in response to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services' (NCDA&CS) request to use 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.

NCDA&CS, which administers The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), requested that USDA approve the use of USDA Foods from TEFAP for disaster household distribution. The disaster household distribution food package will be provided to impacted households most in need of food assistance through NCDA&CS' existing network of food banks to reach impacted individuals, families, and communities in targeted areas.

Approval is granted for disaster household distribution beginning May 19, 2020 through June 17, 2020. This approval allows NCDA&CS to serve a cumulative total, not to exceed 225,000 individuals over the course of the 30-day approval period using USDA Foods available on-hand. The following foods are approved for the disaster household distribution food package for a household of one-to-two members: frozen meats, canned meats, canned vegetables, canned fruits, canned soups, dried and canned beans, rice, nuts, cereal, juice, shelf stable milk, fresh apples, fresh oranges, fresh potatoes, boxed pasta, canned tomato sauce, and eggs. Frozen meats and any perishables must be distributed only if proper cold and frozen storage facilities are available.

For larger households, NCDA&CS has approval to provide additional disaster household distribution food packages based on household size. For example, a household of four could receive two disaster household distribution food packages.

Terms of Approval:

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is approving NCDA&CS' request under the following terms:

1. NCDA&CS must provide on a weekly basis beginning May 19, 2020 an estimate of: 1) the amount of TEFAP inventory used for the disaster household distributions; and 2) the number of persons served under disaster

household distribution.

2. Please conduct outreach and distribution efforts in a manner to ensure that households that are suffering significant economic losses or significant food access challenges due to COVID-19 are served first.
3. Approval for disaster household distribution is granted through June 17, 2020. Existing TEFAP inventories must be utilized to operate a disaster household distribution including orders placed and scheduled for delivery. Please keep in mind that replacement foods may not be available for delivery until July 2020 and beyond.

Should NCDA&CS 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 USDA Farmers to Families, <https://www.ams.usda.gov/publications/content/farmers-families-food-box-program-faqs>.

Please have NCDA&CS contact the FNS Southeast Regional Office for more information should they have any questions regarding this approval.

Authority

The approval of disaster household distribution of USDA Foods is in accordance with FNS regulations at 7 CFR 250.69. NCDA&CS must provide a summary report via the FNS-292A form within 45 days following termination of the disaster household distribution. The information reported on the FNS-292A is the location of distribution sites, the number of persons served, and the type and quantity of USDA Foods distributed.



Diane M. Kriviski
Deputy Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs