

Food and Nutrition
Service

April 15, 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: Bill Ludwig
Regional Administrator
Southwest Regional Office

This memorandum is in response to Cherokee Nation's 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.

Cherokee Nation, which administers the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), requested that USDA approve the use of USDA Foods from FDPIR for disaster household distribution. The disaster household distribution food package will be provided to households in need of food assistance. Cherokee Nation will utilize on-site pickup from its main food distribution facility and four mobile distribution sites to distribute the disaster household distribution food packages.

Approval is granted for disaster household distribution beginning April 15, 2020 through May 14, 2020. This approval allows Cherokee Nation to serve up to 5,000 individuals a disaster household distribution food package while continuing to support their existing FDPIR caseload. The following foods are approved for the disaster household distribution food package for a household of one-to-two members, which is an adjustment of the foods requested:

- 1 cereal
- 2 pastas/rice
- 1 flour or cornmeal
- 4 cans of vegetables or dehydrated potatoes
- 1 soup
- 1 juice
- 2 cans of fruit or 2 units of dried fruit or applesauce
- 2 cans of meat
- 1 unit of dried beans or 2 cans of beans
- 1 peanut butter, roasted peanuts, or fruit and nut mix
- 2 milk, UHT or skim evaporated milk
- 1 vegetable oil

For larger households, Cherokee Nation 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 Cherokee Nation's request under the following terms:

1. Cherokee Nation must provide on a weekly basis beginning April 15, 2020 an estimate of: 1) the amount of FDPIR 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 May 14, 2020. Existing FDPIR 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.

Authority

The approval of disaster household distribution of USDA Foods is in accordance with FNS regulations at 7 CFR 250.69. Cherokee Nation 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