

Food and Nutrition
Service

March 27, 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: Pat Dombroski
Regional Administrator
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office

This memorandum is in response to Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's (PDA) 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.

PDA, 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 throughout the State through its network of food banks reaching approximately 772,500 individuals most in need. PDA plans to utilize a variety of distribution sites including mobile and pop-up sites.

Approval is granted for disaster household distribution beginning March 28, 2020 through April 26, 2020. This approval allows PDA to serve up to 772,500 individuals 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 pastas, canned tomato sauce, and eggs. Only shelf stable items may be distributed at mobile pantries to ensure product safety. Frozen meats and any perishables must be distributed only at agencies that have proper cold and frozen storage facility.

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

1. PDA must provide on a weekly basis beginning the week of March 30, 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 April 26, 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.

Authority

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