

Food and Nutrition
Service

March 31, 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: Jesus Mendoza
Regional Administrator
Western Regional Office

This memorandum is in response to Alaska Department of Education and Early Development's (AK DEED) 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.

AK DEED, which administers The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), requested that USDA approve the use of USDA Foods from TEFAP for disaster household distribution. AK DEED has agreements with thirty-four TEFAP agencies throughout Alaska to distribute USDA Foods. The thirty-four TEFAP agencies will be distributing the disaster household distributions to approximately 5,000 individuals in need of food assistance. Existing TEFAP sites, mobile sites, and home delivery will be used to reach households most in need.

Approval is granted for disaster household distribution beginning April 1, 2020 through April 30, 2020. This approval allows AK DEED to serve up to 5,000 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: proteins, grains, canned fruits, and canned vegetables. Frozen meats are allowed to be distributed only at agencies that have proper cold and frozen storage facilities

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

1. AK DEED must provide on a weekly basis beginning the week of April 6, 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 30, 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. AK DEED 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