

Food and Nutrition
Service

March 24, 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: Kurt Messner
Regional Administrator
Northeast Regional Office

This memorandum is in response to New York State Office of General Services Food Distribution (NYOGSFD) request of March 20, 2020 to use U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foods to operate disaster household distribution using existing inventories of TEFAP foods in Westchester County, New York. 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.

NYOGSFD, which administers The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), requested that USDA approve the use of USDA Foods from TEFAP for disaster household distribution beginning March 23, 2020 through April 22, 2020. NYOGSFD has an agreement with the Westchester Foodbank to distribute USDA Foods. Westchester County is a containment area, where 798 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed. An effect of the COVID19 in this county is that commercial food distribution channels have been disrupted, making it difficult for food retailers to operate and for SNAP benefits to be redeemed. NYOGSFD anticipates serving approximately 200,000 households, targeting those who find themselves newly in need of assistance because of unanticipated circumstances arising from the spread of the COVID-19.

Many of NYOGSFD distribution sites are not operating due to lack of volunteers and the fact that most of these volunteers are elderly citizens, who are most vulnerable to the virus. NYOGSFD can also no longer accept private food donations originating from food drives because these donations cannot be assumed to be uncontaminated. Thus, NYOGSFD plans to utilize nine pop-up/tailgate sites for most of the distribution of this food. Distribution will be twice a week to reach each household weekly.

USDA Foods included in the disaster household distribution food package include:

Raisins 12/15oz – 1400 cs	Apples Fresh Pkg-12/3 LB – 980 cs
White Rice 30/2lb – 800 cs	Beef Chili W/O Beans Can-24/24 Oz – 500 cases
Tomato Sauce 12/15oz – 1200 cs	Chicken Boned Can-24/12.5 Oz – 1800 cases
Tomato Soup 24/10.75oz – 2000 cs	Fig Pieces Pkg-24/1 LB – 792 cases;
Red Kidney Beans 24-15oz – 800 cs	Oranges Fresh Bag Pkg-12/3 LB – 483 cases
Soup Cream Of Mushroom Can-12/1 – 2200 cases	Orange Juice PLST Btl-8/64 Fl Oz – 1025 cases
Applesauce Can-24/300 – 405 cases	Spaghetti Sauce Meatless Can-24/300 – 810 cases
Beef Can-24/24 Oz – 250 cases	Milk 2% Fresh Ctr-64 Fl Oz – 900 cases
Soup Vegetable Can-24/1 – 2200 cases	Pork Loin 6/5lbs – 600 cs

Approval is granted for disaster household distribution for the duration of 30 days beginning March 25, 2020 through April 23, 2020.

Terms of Approval:

FNS is approving NYOGSFD’s request under the following terms:

1. NYOGSFD must provide on a weekly basis beginning 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. Approval for disaster household distribution is granted through April 23, 2020.
3. NYOGSFD may use existing open catalogs to place additional orders for TEFAP inventory. Orders placed may not be available for delivery prior to July 2020. NYOGSFD can request that orders currently purchased be expedited if possible.

Authority

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

Diane M. Kriviski
Deputy Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs