May 1, 2020

SUBJECT: Extension 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 the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry’s (LDAF) request to extend its use of U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Foods to operate disaster household distribution beyond its initial approved end date of April 26, 2020. 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.

LDAF requested that USDA extend its initial approval to use USDA Foods from The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) for disaster household distribution. LDAF will continue to use the same distribution methods to provide food assistance to approximately 600,000 individuals.

An extension is granted for disaster household distribution beginning May 1, 2020 through May 30, 2020. LDAF is authorized to use the previously approved disaster household distribution food package to continue providing food assistance to impacted households. LDAF must adhere to the Terms of Approval as outlined in the original approval letter dated March 27, 2020, to include but not limited to weekly reporting of:

1) the amount of TEFAP inventory used for disaster household distributions, and
2) the number of persons served under the disaster household distribution.

In addition, this approval requires LDAF to provide a detailed plan outlining monitoring methods that LDAF will put in place to ensure disaster household distributions do not exceed 600,000 total individuals during the approval period. The plan is due to the FNS Southwest Regional Office by May 5, 2020.

Should LDAF need additional assistance, other resources may be available through FEMA and other USDA programs such as Farmer’s Feed Families. Please contact the FNS Southwest Regional Office for more information and should you have any questions regarding this approval.

Diane M. Kriviski
Deputy Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs

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