

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:** Cheryl Kennedy  
Regional Administrator  
Mountain Plains Regional Office

This memorandum is in response to Spirit Lake Tribe's request to use U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foods to operate disaster household distribution on Spirit Lake's Indian Reservation and in surrounding near areas off-reservation where many Tribal members currently live. 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.

Spirit Lake Tribe, 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 all existing FDPIR households in need of food assistance and potentially non-FDPIR Tribal-member households for a total of approximately 750 individuals served. Spirit Lake Tribe will utilize one to five community pick-up sites throughout the reservation to provide the disaster household distribution food package to impacted Tribal members.

**Approval is granted for disaster household distribution beginning April 1, 2020 through April 30, 2020.** 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:

- 2 cans of meat
- 1 juice
- 2 pasta
- 1 rice
- 2 milk
- 1 flour
- 4 cans of vegetables
- 2 cans of fruit or 2 units of dried fruit
- 1 cereal
- 1 peanut butter

For larger households, Spirit Lake Tribe 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 Spirit Lake Tribe's request under the following terms:

1. Spirit Lake Tribe must provide on a weekly basis beginning the week of April 6, 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 April 30, 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. Spirit Lake Tribe 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.



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