May 23, 2020

SUBJECT: Extension 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 Yurok Tribe’s 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 May 10, 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. Yurok Tribe requested that USDA extend its approval to use USDA Foods from the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) for disaster household distribution and continue to use the same distribution methods to provide food assistance to approximately 560 individuals.

The intent of disaster household distribution is to serve as a short-term program to address immediate needs and to bridge the gap to longer-term assistance programs in the aftermath of a Federal disaster or emergency declaration. Although disaster household distribution has been used in an unprecedented way over the last three months in response to the National Emergency, FDPIR is intended to serve longer-term emergency feeding needs even during times of social distancing. In addition, Congress has provided significant additional resources to FDPIR in response to the pandemic.

An extension is granted for disaster household distribution beginning May 11, 2020 through June 9, 2020 to serve a cumulative total, not to exceed, 560 individuals during the 30-day approval period. During this period, it is expected that Yurok Tribe, will promote the availability of other Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) programs to meet impacted individuals’ ongoing needs including The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Pandemic EBT (P-EBT), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP).


While working to begin transitioning to longer-term use of FDPIR rather than disaster household distribution, Yurok Tribe is authorized to use the previously approved disaster household distribution food package to continue providing food assistance to impacted households. Yurok Tribe must also follow the same Terms of Approval as stated in the approval letter dated April 11, 2020 to include, but not limited to, weekly reporting of:

1) the amount of FDPIR inventory used for disaster household distributions, and
2) the number of persons served under the disaster household distribution.
Consideration of any further requests to extend disaster household distribution will be dependent on the targeting of the request to those most in need and include justification as to why the availability of other programs and resources are not meeting Yurok Tribe’s food assistance needs.

Please have Yurok Tribe contact the FNS Western Regional Office for more information should they have any questions regarding this approval.

Diane M. Kriviski
Deputy Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs