



Department	Resource	Link
U.S. Department of Agriculture	Primary COVID-19 Background Information	<a href="https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus">https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus</a>
	Food and Nutrition Service Background Information	<a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19">https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19</a>
	Find Meals for Kids	<a href="https://usda-fns.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=789a7a56a07f4e3dab873fd8c2918f9a">https://usda-fns.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=789a7a56a07f4e3dab873fd8c2918f9a</a>
	Pennsylvania Disaster Household Distribution (SNAP, WIC, etc.)	<a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/pennsylvania">https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19/pennsylvania</a>
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	Find a Food Bank	<a href="https://www.dhs.pa.gov/about/Ending-Hunger/Pages/Food-Pantries.aspx">https://www.dhs.pa.gov/about/Ending-Hunger/Pages/Food-Pantries.aspx</a>
	Community Feeding	<a href="https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/foodforthought/Pages/Article.aspx?post=77">https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/foodforthought/Pages/Article.aspx?post=77</a>
	COVID-19 Guidance for Food Assistance Agencies	<a href="https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Documents/COVID-19%20Guidance%20for%20Food%20Assistance%20Agencies.pdf">https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Documents/COVID-19%20Guidance%20for%20Food%20Assistance%20Agencies.pdf</a>

***For more information and resources, please visit my [COVID-19 resources page](#).***

# USDA's Nutrition Response to the Coronavirus

## *The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) & Support for Food Banks*

Congress has provided \$850 million for TEFAP in response to Coronavirus.

**Increased Funding for TEFAP:** The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) provided an additional \$400 million to The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). This program provides USDA-purchased food to states and local agencies such as food banks. Further, the CARES Act provided an additional \$450 million for TEFAP, increasing the total new funding to \$850 million.

**Disaster Household Distribution:** Under a Presidential National Emergency declaration, FNS may approve state requests for Disaster Household Distributions for targeted areas to meet specific needs when traditional channels of food are unavailable and not being replenished. Pennsylvania received this authorization on March 27.

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

### *The CARES Act provided \$15.8 billion for SNAP*

**Emergency Allotments:** USDA is granting waivers to states to allow for the issuance of emergency allotments based on a public health emergency declaration by Health and Human Services when a state has also issued an emergency/disaster declaration.

**Pandemic EBT:** Through FFCRA, children who would receive free or reduced-price meals (if not for school closures) are eligible to receive assistance. USDA is providing guidance to state agencies on plan requirements in order to receive approval.

**Extended Certification Periods / Reporting Waivers:** The FFCRA gives USDA authority to grant waivers to allow states the flexibility to adjust deadlines for participants to re-enroll to continue receiving SNAP benefits.

**Adjustments to Interview Requirements:** Under FFCRA authority, FNS is allowing state SNAP agencies to adjust interview requirements, provided an applicant's identity has been verified.

**Time Limit for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD):** The FFCRA temporarily and partially suspends the time limit for ABAWD participation.

**Flexibility for Quality Control Interviews:** USDA is allowing states to conduct phone interviews (rather than face-to-face-interviews) for Quality Control purposes through May. USDA has also offered states

an optional 45-day extension on QC case reviews due through June. States must notify FNS in advance if they choose to implement these flexibilities and must follow all other requirements as specified in SNAP.

## Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

*FFCRA provided the WIC Program with \$500 million through September 2021*

**Physical Presence Waivers:** FFCRA gives USDA authority to grant states waivers of the requirement that participants physically come into the clinic to enroll or re-enroll, including the ability to defer certain requirements used to determine nutritional risk.

**Remote Benefit Issuance Waivers:** FFCRA gives USDA authority to grant waivers to states of the requirement that participants physically come into the clinic to pick up WIC EBT cards and/or paper coupons.

**Food Package Substitution Waivers:** FFCRA provides USDA the authority to allow states and Tribal Organizations to permit appropriate substitutes for the types and amounts of certain WIC-prescribed foods if their availability is limited.

## Child Nutrition Programs

**Congregate Meal Waivers:** FNS has approved waivers from all 50 states enabling Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sponsors to serve meals in a non-congregate setting and at school sites during school closures. FNS also issued guidance on meal delivery using existing authorities in summer programs.

**Pandemic EBT:** Through FFCRA, children who would receive free or reduced-price meals (if not for school closures) are eligible to receive assistance.

**Nationwide Meal Times Waiver:** This waiver allows for the serving of meals outside of the standard meal times for the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program.

**Nationwide Non-Congregate Feeding Waiver:** This waiver will allow the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program, to serve meals outside of the standard group setting.

**Nationwide Afterschool Activity Waiver:** This waiver allows the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program to serve snacks and meals outside of the standard afterschool setting.

**Nationwide Meal Pattern Waiver:** FNS has provided nationwide approval for states to locally waive specific meal pattern requirements to support access to meals when certain foods are unavailable.

**Nationwide Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup Waiver:** This waiver allows parents and guardians to pick up meals for their children, as long as they protect accountability and integrity.

**Nationwide Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Data Waiver:** FNS has extended CEP election, notification and reporting and deadlines for School Year 2020-21.

**Nationwide Waivers of Child Nutrition Monitoring:** FNS has used its authority under FFCRA to waive certain onsite monitoring requirements for the school meals programs, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Summer Food Service Program.

**Nationwide 60-Day Reporting Waiver:** Under its FFCRA authority, FNS is extending the 60-day reporting deadline for all state agencies, school food authorities, and CACFP and SFSP sponsoring organizations for January and February 2020.