



The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act

- Amend Section 412(a) to include “*and to authorize the implementation of child nutrition programs pursuant to the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act as amended (42 USC 1758, 1761, 1762a)*”.
- Insert: “*CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS - The Secretary of Agriculture shall be authorized to implement child nutrition programs to provide adequate nutrition to eligible children in any area of the United States in the event of a major disaster or emergency in such area. The Secretary shall be further authorized to issue such waivers as he deems necessary to expedite the feeding of disaster-affected children.*”

Pertinent Legislation: Richard B. Russell National School Lunch act (42 USC 1758, 1761, 1762a)

Pertinent Regulations: 7 CFRP 225.6(e)(1)(iii)

Recommended Waivers to be Issued by the Secretary of Agriculture in the Event of a Disaster

- *30 day claim window*: Waive the requirement that claims be filed within 30 days of the end of the month and empower the state administering agency to determine an appropriate extension in coordination with the feeding sponsor(s).
- *Media release*: In disaster situations, media releases are not practical. Many local media outlets are offline and citizens do not have access to publications/broadcasts. Instead, sponsors should be allowed to utilize social media in place of traditional media.
- *Site type*: Rather than require sponsors to select one site type, allow sponsors to designate sites as “disaster sites” as the usual categories may not be applicable in an emergency situation.
- *Site/child eligibility*: Areas which were not needy and children who were not food-insecure prior to a disaster situation can often become so in the aftermath of a disaster. Rather than utilizing existing census/income data, grant automatic eligibility to sites and children based on locations specified in the federal emergency declaration.
- *Health inspections for food prepared in a central location*: There has been much debate about whether or not sites served from central kitchens require health inspections. In a disaster situation, it may be impossible to get (or get documentation of) a health inspection. For meals prepared at a central kitchen and only dispensed/served at the site, confirm that health inspections are not needed for the feeding site.
- *Pre-operational site visit*: Because of the extraordinary situation, waive the need for a pre-operational site visit.
- *Site/sponsor agreement*: In a disaster situation, it may impractical (or even impossible) to get a properly executed site/sponsor agreement. If a designated representative has given verbal or written permission (including email, text, or instant messenger) for the site to be utilized, waive the requirement for a contractual agreement signed by a site official.
- *Budget/management plan*: In the interest of helping children as quickly as possible, it is necessary to move quickly and to be flexible and responsive to the needs of those affected by disaster. As this process can take weeks to complete and budgeting for a disaster situation is nearly impossible due to the variables, waive the requirement for a budget or management plan if expenses are reasonably similar to the previous operational segment.
- *Single program points of contact*: It is not always practical or even possible for the designated program contact to manage the process of implementing D-SFSP. In order to accommodate for these special circumstances, allow designated alternates to communicate with the administering state agency.
- *Congregate feeding*: The requirement for congregate feeding limits a sponsor’s ability to reach food insecure children in times of disaster. Safe sites may not exist and families may not be able to reach the congregate location. In addition, it’s difficult to spread the word about feedings due to lack of power, data/cell signal. To enable sponsors to reach the maximum number of hungry children, waive the congregate feeding site requirement as has been done previously in instances of severe weather (temperature).
- *Meal limit/service times*: Given the special circumstances, allow sponsors to serve up to three meals per site per day regardless of time as allowed when serving primarily migrant children.

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