# Attachment A, SNP Memo No. 2019-2020-34

# March 19, 2020

## Summary: Emergency Nutrition Access, School and Community Partnerships Webinar

### March 18, 2020

#### Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

#### Please review the March 18 Directors Memo (No. 2019-2020-33, Coronavirus (COVID-19): FAQs and Best Practices, along with attachments A & B), then consult your SNP/CNP Specialist if you need more information.

#### Note about Spring Break date adjustments: Please do not revise your application for spring break this week, unless your spring break is next week. This will allow VDOE to triage application responses and be as timely as possible.

#### Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)

#### VDACS runs two household-level food distribution programs through the USDA:

#### The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), eligibility is limited to low income families and individuals

#### The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), low-income elderly persons at least 60

#### VDACS submitted multiple waivers to make TEFAP and CSFP food distribution easier and safer:

#### VDACS received waiver for CSFP program allowing seniors to receive two boxes per month at a time, limiting the number of times they have to leave their residence. This provides them with the same amount of food but reduces exposure.

#### VDACS can now waive required signatures for their paperwork. This minimizes exposure with each distribution by making them “no-touch” distributions.

#### Pending Waiver: VDACS is working on a waiver to establish “disaster household distributions” that would allow anyone in need to be automatically qualified for food distribution. They will work with Virginia Federation of Foodbanks to start those distributions as soon as the USDA approves the waiver.

#### What can SFSP/SSO sponsors do with their USDA Foods? Schools can take any of their USDA products and use them in an emergency situation. USDA Foods distribution centers are also receiving more shipments, so there will be a full supply moving forward.

####  Meeting individual and family nutritional needs: The TEFAP, CSFP, and pending Disaster Household Distribution Program can be paired with existing emergency feeding programs at schools. This will hopefully meet all the nutritional needs of both students and families.

#### Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)

#### VDSS is exploring various SNAP waiver options for USDA submission.

#### Additionally, we are closely monitoring the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which includes additional SNAP waiver options, such as relaxed time limits for able bodied adults without dependents, supplemental benefits as well as a provision to provide SNAP benefits to families with eligible children when schools have been closed five consecutive days.

#### VDSS has created a COVID-19 portal on our public [website](https://www.dss.virginia.gov/geninfo/corona.cgi) and is promoting the VDOE meal sites.

#### The DSS 2-1-1 line is promoting meal site information from VDOE.

#### Federation of Virginia Foodbanks

#### Food banks are focused on continuing to serve their 1,500 partner agencies across the state (pantries, soup kitchens, shelters).

#### They are implementing low-touch distribution models to limit contact between clients, volunteers, and agency staff.

#### They are exploring ways to partner with community organizations to better serve seniors who are especially at risk and will be homebound for extended periods.

#### The Federation of Virginia Foodbanks have websites that provide information on emergency food services that may be available in your community. Please share these with your families.

#### [Feed More](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Ckellybowman%5CDesktop%5Co%09https%3A%5Cfeedmore.org%5Cagency-network%5Cagency-locator)

#### [Blue Ridge Area Food Bank](https://www.brafb.org/find-help/pantry-locator/)

#### [Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank](https://www.fredfood.org/pantryapp)

#### [Capital Area Food Bank](https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/find-food-assistance/)

#### [Feeding Southwest Virginia](https://www.faswva.org/home/help/)

#### [Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore](https://foodbankonline.org/directory/)

#### [Virginia Peninsula Foodbank](http://hrfoodbank.org/get-help/)

#### Visit the [Feeding America website](https://www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank) to determine which food bank serves your locality.

#### No Kid Hungry Virginia

* Emergency relief grants
	+ No Kid Hungry is offering funding and assistance for schools and community organizations that are finding new, innovative ways to make sure Virginia kids have access to the meals they need as schools close due to coronavirus.
	+ These emergency grants to support local efforts like home delivered meals, grab and go meals programs, school and community pantries, backpack programs, and other steps to help reach children and families who lose access to meals.
	+ If your school division/organization needs funding to support these efforts, please [submit your interest](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Ckellybowman%5CDesktop%5C%EF%82%A7%09https%3A%5Cwww.nokidhungry.org%5Ccoronavirus-grant-request) in receiving emergency grant funds.
	+ No Kid Hungry Virginia staff will be circulating this information to you via email.
* Local promotion support
	+ Contact Sarah Steely at ssteely@strength.org if No Kid Hungry can assist with local promotion in any way, including:
		- working with our public relations firm to direct reporters to a story about your meal sites,
		- writing op-eds/letters to the editor about your meal operation, and/or
		- creating sharable images (posters/flyers/social media graphics).
* 877-877 texting line
	+ No Kid Hungry Headquarters is exploring options to open up the 877-877 texting line to direct families to emergency meal sites.
	+ NKH will assist by extracting the data from the VDOE system and sending it up to Headquarters.
	+ More information to come.