



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

DATE: October 25, 2019

SUBJECT: Commodity Supplemental Food Program: Delayed Implementation of Revised Food Package Maximum Monthly Distribution Rates

TO: Regional Directors
Special Nutrition Programs
MARO, MPRO, MWRO,
NERO, SERO, SWRO, and
WRO

State Directors
CSFP State Agencies

On February 22, 2019, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) announced the implementation of significant revisions to the CSFP's Maximum Monthly Distribution Rates (Distribution Rates). These revised Distribution Rates (Attachment B) were scheduled to go into effect on November 1, 2019. However, due to USDA Food purchasing shortfalls and delivery delays, FNS is delaying the implementation date of the revised Distribution Rates. The revised Distribution Rates will now go into effect on February 1, 2020.

FNS recognizes that this delay will be disruptive to State and local agencies, and that many programs may have already begun pre-packing food boxes for November distributions. Accordingly, any food packages that have already been pre-packed per the revised Distribution Rates (Attachment B), may be distributed to CSFP participants without modification. However, food packages packed after the issuance of this memorandum are required to be packed using the October 2018 Distribution Rates (Attachments A.1, A.2, and A.3), even if a State had previously issued a package using the November 1, 2019 guide rates or has sufficient inventory to provide the package that was to go into effect on November 1, 2019.

On February 1, 2020, CFSP food packages should begin following the revised Distribution Rate (Attachment B). However, due to anticipated ongoing product shortages in the plant-based protein category, February 2020 and March 2020 food packages must be issued with reduced quantities of plant-based proteins. During these months, the plant-based protein issuance should be limited to one of the following options:

- One jar of peanut butter (16 or 18 oz); or
- Two pounds of dry beans or lentils; or
- Two cans beans (15.5 oz); or
- One can of beans and one 1 lb bag of dry beans.

Additionally, new CSFP products are or will soon be available, including new food options and new package sizes of certain products. These new products may be issued

under the October 2018 Distribution Rates per the exchange rates listed in Attachment C. Please note that all remaining inventory of older CSFP products must be distributed prior to issuing the newer, smaller package sizes to clients.

Consistent with current FNS policy, some foods in the food package may be unavailable due to changing agricultural market conditions. This may impact the choices listed within the Food Package Categories. State and local agencies must closely monitor their inventories and ensure they are ordering only what is needed to maintain one to no more than three months of inventory. If a State anticipates being unable to issue a full food package as described in this memo, the State should notify its respective Regional Office as soon as possible for further guidance.

We appreciate your understanding of this issue and your work to ensure CSFP participants continue to receive needed food assistance during this time. State agency and Indian Tribal Organization staff who have questions may contact their respective Regional Offices, who may in turn contact the National Office.

Sincerely,

/s/ Original Signature on File

Laura Castro
Director
Food Distribution Division

Attachments

October 2018
COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM
MAXIMUM MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION RATES

Children

Food Package Category	Food Item	Package Size	Packages/Month	Amount/Month
Cereals	Cereal, Dry Ready-to-Eat ^{1/}	12-18 oz pkg	2 pkgs	24-36 oz
	or Farina ^{1/}	18 oz pkg	2 pkgs	36 oz
	or Rolled Oats	42-48 oz pkg	1 pkg	42-48 oz
	or Grits ^{2/}	5 lb pkg	1 pkg every other month	40 oz
Juices	Juice	64 oz container	3 containers	192 oz
Proteins	Beef	24 oz can	1 can	24 oz
	or Beef Stew	24 oz can	1 can	24 oz
	or Chili	24 oz can	1 can	24 oz
	or Chicken ^{3/}	10-15 oz can or pouch	2 cans or pouches	20-30 oz
	or Tuna ^{3/}	12 oz can	2 cans	24 oz
	or Salmon ^{3/}	14.75 oz can	2 cans	29.5 oz
Milk ^{4/}	UHT Fluid Milk 1% and Instant Nonfat Dry Milk ^{5/}	32 oz pkg	4 pkgs and 1 pkg or 1 pkg every other month	128 oz 12.8 oz (128 oz reconstituted)
		12.8 oz pkg		
		25.6 oz pkg		
Peanut Butter / Dry Beans	Peanut Butter	18 oz pkg	1 pkg	18 oz
	or Dry Beans/Peas	2 lb pkg	1 pkg	32 oz
Potatoes / Grains	Dehydrated Potatoes	1 lb pkg	1 pkg	16 oz
	or Pasta	1 lb pkg	2 pkgs	32 oz
	or Rice	2 lb pkg	1 pkg	32 oz
	or Grits ^{2/}	5 lb pkg	1 pkg every other month	40 oz
Cheese	Cheese	2 lb pkg	1 pkg	32 oz
Fruits	Fruits	15-16 oz can	2 cans	30-32 oz
Vegetables	Vegetables	15-16 oz can	4 cans	60-64 oz

Children

- 1/ A combination of 1 package of dry ready-to-eat cereal and 1 package of farina may be provided.
- 2/ The distribution rate for grits is 5 pounds every other month in either the Cereals or Potatoes/Grains Food Package Category.
- 3/ Participants can select two items per month from the following food items: chicken, tuna, and salmon. For example, participants can select two cans of salmon or one can of salmon and one can of chicken, etc.
- 4/ If parents or caretakers of children 12 to 23 months old choose to continue receiving CSFP benefits for children within this age range, they must be notified that the lower fat UHT milk and NDM provided in the CSFP food package should not be the sole source of milk for consumption by their children.
- 5/ Local agencies should first distribute all remaining inventory of 25.6 oz packages of instant nonfat dry milk on a bimonthly schedule prior to distributing the smaller, 12.8 oz pack size on a monthly basis.

**October 2018
COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM
MAXIMUM MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION RATES**

Elderly

Food Package Category	Food Item	Package Size	Packages/Month	Amount/Month
Cereals	Cereal, Dry Ready-to-Eat ^{1/}	12-18 oz pkg	2 pkgs	24-36 oz
	or Farina ^{1/}	18 oz pkg	2 pkgs	36 oz
	or Rolled Oats	42-48 oz pkg	1 pkg	42-48 oz
	or Grits ^{2/}	5 lb pkg	1 pkg every other month	40 oz
Juices	Juice	64 oz container	2 containers	128 oz
Proteins	Beef	24 oz can	1 can	24 oz
	or Beef Stew	24 oz can	1 can	24 oz
	or Chili	24 oz can	1 can	24 oz
	or Chicken ^{3/}	10-15 oz can or pouch	2 cans or pouch	20-30 oz
	or Tuna ^{3/}	12 oz can	2 cans	24 oz
	or Salmon ^{3/}	14.75 oz can	2 cans	29.5 oz
Milk	UHT Fluid Milk 1% and Instant Nonfat Dry Milk ^{4/}	32 oz pkg	2 pkgs and 1 pkg or 1 pkg every other month	64 oz 12.8 oz (128 oz reconstituted)
		12.8 oz pkg		
		25.6 oz pkg		
Peanut Butter/ Dry Beans	Peanut Butter	18 oz pkg	1 pkg	18 oz
	or Dry Beans/Peas	2 lb pkg	1 pkg	32 oz
Potatoes/ Grains	Dehydrated Potatoes	1 lb pkg	1 pkg	16 oz
	or Pasta	1 lb pkg	2 pkgs	32 oz
	or Rice	2 lb pkg	1 pkg	32 oz
	or Grits ^{2/}	5 lb pkg	1 pkg every other month	40 oz
Cheese	Cheese	2 lb pkg	1 pkg	32 oz
Fruits	Fruits	15-16 oz can	2 cans	30-32 oz
Vegetables	Vegetables	15-16 oz can	4 cans	60-64 oz

Elderly

- 1/ A combination of 1 package of dry ready-to-eat cereal and 1 package of farina may be provided.
- 2/ The distribution rate for grits is 5 pounds every other month in either the Cereals or Potatoes/Grains Food Package Category.
- 3/ Participants can select two items per month from the following food items: chicken, tuna, and salmon. For example, participants can select two cans of salmon or one can of salmon and one can of chicken, etc.
- 4/ Local agencies should first distribute all remaining inventory of 25.6 oz packages of instant nonfat dry milk on a bimonthly schedule prior to distributing the smaller, 12.8 oz pack size on a monthly basis.

ATTACHMENT A.3

October 2018
COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM
MAXIMUM MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION RATES – SUMMARY TABLE¹

Food Package Category	Food Item	Size	Cans or Packages per Month	
			Children	Elderly
Cereals	Cereal, Ready-to-Eat or	12-18 oz	2 or	2 or
	Farina or	18 oz	2 or	2 or
	Rolled Oats or	42-48 oz	1 or	1 or
	Grits	5 lb	1 every other month	1 every other month
Juice	Juice, Plastic Container	64 oz	3	2
Proteins	Beef or	24 oz	1 or	1 or
	Beef Stew or	24 oz	1 or	1 or
	Chili or	24 oz	1 or	1 or
	Chicken or	10-15 oz	2 or	2 or
	Tuna or	12 oz	2 or	2 or
	Salmon or	14.75 oz	2 or	2 or
Milk	UHT Fluid Milk 1% and Inst. Nonfat Dry Milk ²	32 oz	4 every mo. and	2 every mo. and
		12.8 oz	1 every mo. or	1 every mo. or
		25.6 oz	1 every other month	1 every other month
Peanut Butter/ Dry Beans	Peanut Butter or Dry Beans/Peas	18 oz	1 or	1 or
		2 lb	1	1
Potatoes/ Grains	Dehydrated Potatoes or	1 lb	1 or	1 or
	Pasta or	1 lb	2 or	2 or
	Rice or	2 lb	1 or	1 or
	Grits	5 lb	1 every other month	1 every other month
Cheese	Cheese	2 lb	1	1
Fruits	Fruits	15-16 oz	2	2
Vegetables	Vegetables	15-16 oz	4	4

¹See Maximum Monthly Distribution Rates by participant category for complete description of appropriate substitutions and/or combinations.

²Local agencies should first distribute all remaining inventory of 25.6 oz packages of instant nonfat dry milk on a bimonthly schedule prior to distributing the smaller, 12.8 oz pack size on a monthly basis.

**COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM
MAXIMUM MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION RATES**

Effective February 1, 2020

Food Package Category	Food Item	Amount Each Month
Fruits and Juice ¹	Canned Fruit (15.5 oz) Juice (64 oz) Raisins (15 oz)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 juice and 3 cans fruit; or • 2 juices and 2 cans fruit; or • 1 package raisins, 1 juice, and 2 cans fruit; or • 1 package raisins, 2 juices and 1 can fruit.
Vegetables	Canned Vegetables or Soup (10.5 to 15.5 oz) Dehydrated Potatoes (1 lb)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 cans vegetables or soup; or • 6 cans vegetables or soup, and 1 package dehydrated potatoes.
Cheese	Cheese (2 lb)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 package cheese.
Milk ²	UHT Fluid Milk 1% (32 oz) Instant Nonfat Dry Milk (12.8 to 25.6* oz)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 UHT milk; or • 1 UHT milk and 1 (12.8 oz) Nonfat Dry Milk; or • 1 UHT milk (every month) and 1 (25.6* oz) Nonfat Dry Milk (every other month).
Meat, Poultry, and Fish	Beef, Beef Stew, or Chili (24 oz) Chicken (10 to 15 oz) Tuna (12 oz) Salmon (14.75 oz)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 (24 oz) shelf-stable package meat and 1 (10 to 15 oz) shelf-stable package poultry or fish; or • 3 (10 to 15 oz) shelf-stable packages poultry and/or fish of any combination.
Plant-Based Protein ³	Canned Beans (15.5 oz) Dry Beans or Lentils (1 to 2* lb) Peanut Butter (16 to 18* oz)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 units of any combination of canned beans, (1 lb) dry beans or lentils, and peanut butter; or • 1 (2* lb) unit dry beans or lentils, and 1 unit of canned beans, peanut butter, or (1 lb) dry beans or lentils.
Cereals	Cereal, Dry Ready-to-Eat, (12 to 18 oz) Farina (18 oz) Rolled Oats (18 to 48* oz) Grits (2 to 5* lb)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 units of any combination of cereal, farina, (18 oz) rolled oats, and (2 lb) grits; or • 1 (42* to 48* oz) unit rolled oats; or • 1 (5* lb) unit grits (every other month).
Pasta and Rice	Pasta (1 lb) Rice (1 to 2* lb)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 units of any combination of pasta and (1 lb) rice; or • 1 (2* lb) unit rice

¹ For children, provide 1 additional unit of juice.

² For children, provide 2 additional units of UHT milk.

³ Plant-based Protein amounts in February 2020 and March 2020 should be limited to one jar of peanut butter or two pounds of beans. Full amounts may be issued beginning April 1st, 2020.

* Indicates larger package size which is being phased out of the food package.

Attachment C

The following tables provide details on how to incorporate new CSFP products and sizes into the 2018 Distribution Rates.

New Food Options		
Product	October 2018 Food Package Category – In effect until February 1, 2020	Allowable Substitutions
Grits, Corn, White (111082), 12/2 lb pkg	Cereals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 2 lb pkg monthly=1 5 lb pkg every other month
Oats, Rolled, Quick Cooking (111074), 18 oz	Cereals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 18 oz pkg rolled oats= 1 42-48 oz pkg
Beans, Black, Low-Sodium, Canned (110020), 15.5 oz	Peanut Butter/Dry Beans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 can (15.5 oz) = 1 1 lb bag of dry beans/peas; or 2 cans (15.5 oz) = 1 2 lb bag of dry beans/ peas
Beans, Kidney, Light Red, Low-Sodium, Canned (100372), 15.5 oz	Peanut Butter/Dry Beans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 can (15.5 oz) = 1 1 lb bag of dry beans/peas; or 2 cans (15.5 oz) = 1 2 lb bag of dry beans/ peas
Beans, Pinto, Low-Sodium, Canned (110021), 15.5 oz	Peanut Butter/Dry Beans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 can (15.5 oz) = 1 1 lb bag of dry beans/peas; or 2 cans (15.5 oz) = 1 2 lb bag of dry beans/ peas
Lentils, Dry (111102), 1 lb bag	Peanut Butter/Dry Beans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 1 lb bags= 1 2 lb bag of dry beans/peas
Peanut Butter (111081), 16 oz	Peanut Butter/Dry Beans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 16 oz pkg= 1 18 oz pkg of peanut butter
Beans, Kidney, Dry (111080), 1 lb bag	Peanut Butter/Dry Beans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 1 lb bag= 1 2 lb bag of dry beans/peas
Beans, Lima, Dry (111068), 1 lb bag	Peanut Butter/Dry Beans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 1 lb bag= 1 2lb bag of dry beans/peas
Beans, Pinto, Dry (111063), 1 lb bag	Peanut Butter/Dry Beans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 1 lb bag= 1 2lb bag of dry beans/peas
Rice, Long Grain, Brown (111083), 1 lb bag	Potatoes/ Grains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 1 lb bags= 1 2 lb bag of rice
Vegetable Soup (100321), 10.5 oz can	Vegetables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 can of vegetable soup (10.5 oz) = 1 can of vegetables (15-16 oz)
Raisins (100295), 15 oz box	Fruits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 box of 15 oz raisins= 1 can of fruit

Note: Dehydrated Potatoes may be issued in the Potatoes/Grains category as specified in the October 2018 Maximum Monthly Distribution Rate. Vegetarian beans may be issued as part of the vegetable category as per the 2018 Maximum Monthly Distribution Rate.