



SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Flexibilities, Resources, and Waivers In Response to COVID-19

ELIGIBLE SERVICE POPULATION	PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY SUMMARY	FOOD ACCESS POINTS
<p>Low-Income Households that Meet Work Requirements</p>	<p>All state agencies may...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct interviews, including quality control interviews, over phone • Determine good cause to waive work requirements 	<p>Any grocer or convenience store that accepts electronic SNAP benefits.</p>

Applicants to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) must generally attend a face-to-face interview with their state’s agency for “quality control” purposes. As of today, USDA waived this requirement in 27 states to facilitate social distancing:

- Arizona
- Arkansas
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Montana
- New Hampshire
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

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FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS (FDPIR)

Flexibilities, Resources, and Waivers In Response to COVID-19

ELIGIBLE SERVICE POPULATION	PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY SUMMARY	FOOD ACCESS POINTS
<p>American Indians, Alaska Natives, non-Natives in a household with AI/AN or on a Tribal reservation that meet income eligibility requirements</p>	<p>Indian Tribal Organizations and state agencies may...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support car pick-up of food packages • Allow FDPIR recipients to designate another person to pick-up their food 	<p>Active FDPIR program sites</p>

Approximately 83,800 individuals in Tribal households or non-Native households on reservations averaged participation in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) each month.¹ As an alternative to SNAP, FDPIR provides food to households where participants experience very low rates of food security typically four times higher than the nation.² While participants must typically visit a designated site to participate, FNS flexibilities allow participants the ability to receive foods through home delivery or to request a trusted person pick up foods in their stead.

¹USDA, *FDPIR Program Fact Sheet*, January 2018, available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/fdpi/fdpi-fact-sheet>.

²Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative, *Program Highlight: Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations*, February 2019, available at <https://indigenousfoodandag.com/resources/>.



SCHOOL MEALS IN REPSONSE TO SCHOOL CLOSURES

Flexibilities, Resources, and Waivers In Response to COVID-19

ELIGIBLE SERVICE POPULATION

Differs by school district or Census area, where **Low-income areas with 50+ percent free- and reduced-school lunch use**

- Any student in that district can receive meals

Non-low-income areas with lower than 50 percent free- and reduced-school lunch use

- Only students currently using free- or reduced-school lunches can receive meals

PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY SUMMARY

Where school closures occur, Summer Meal Program Sites may serve meals...

- To low-income youth during school closures.
- In grab-and-go bags for these youth to eat off-site.

State agencies may...

- Expedite approval of Summer Meal Program Sites.

FOOD ACCESS POINTS

Approved Summer Meal Program Sites may include:

- Schools
- Recreation centers
- Playgrounds
- Parks
- Churches
- Community centers
- Day camps
- Residential summer camps,
- Housing projects,
- Migrant centers
- Indian reservations

Where schools have closed, they can [leverage participation in the summer meal program](#) to provide food for students. Traditionally, these meals must be served in a group setting, with students eating on-site; however, USDA has waived this requirement to support social distancing. Generally, Tribes, schools, and other nonprofit institutions may sponsor summer food service sites, with information on how to become a sponsor or meal service site available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/how-become-sponsor>. USDA permits states to [expedite approval of summer meal sites](#) that provide food during unforeseen school closures.

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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

Flexibilities, Resources, and Waivers In Response to COVID-19

ELIGIBLE SERVICE POPULATION

Low-income women who are pregnant, postpartum, or breastfeeding, and infants and children up to 5 years age.

PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY SUMMARY

All state agencies* may...

- Postpone in-person lab tests for 90 days.
- Issue 3 months of WIC benefits in advance.

According to an FNS study, in April 2016 AI/AN enrollment in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) totaled 906,698, approximately 10.3% of all WIC participants.¹ Through WIC, pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum non-breastfeeding women who meet income thresholds, in addition to youth younger than five years old, may receive supplemental food, nutrition education, and healthcare referrals.² To support the health and food security of these families, FNS authorized flexibilities to waive specific in-person lab tests for 90 days, extend benefits for up to 30 additional days, and issue 3 months of WIC benefits in advance.

¹USDA Food and Nutrition Service, "WIC Racial-Ethnic Group Enrollment Data 2016," available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/wic-racial-ethnic-group-enrollment-data-2016>.

²USDA, *WIC Fact Sheet*, October 2013, available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/about-wic>.

* State agencies in WIC means the health department or comparable agency of each State; an Indian tribe, band or group recognized by the Department of the Interior; an intertribal council or group which is an authorized representative of Indian tribes, bands or groups recognized by the Department of the Interior and which has an ongoing relationship with such tribes, bands or groups for other purposes and has contracted with them to administer the Program; or the appropriate area office of the IHS.