Feeding in disasters, situations of distress and unanticipated school closures

Kentucky Department of Education
School and Community Nutrition
2015
What’s the plan to feed?

Disasters, situations of distress and unanticipated school closures can strike at any moment.

Do you have a plan?
“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.”
– Benjamin Franklin
“Disaster Feeding”

Any meals provided due to disaster or other emergency situations have commonly been lumped together as “disaster feeding”.

There are very distinct situations in which meals may be served and it is important for SFAs to understand the difference of each.
Disaster Regulation

• 7 CFR Part 250.43: Requirements for assistance during Disasters
Disaster Means:

a) any natural catastrophe, or regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion, in any part of the U.S., which the President determines causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance; or

b) any other occasion or instance in which the President determines Federal assistance is needed.
Disaster Plan

- National level – FEMA
  www.fema.gov

- State level Plan – Kentucky Emergency Management
  www.kyem.ky.gov

- Local level Plan – Local Governmental Unit
Disaster Organization

• **Disaster organizations means:** organizations authorized by appropriate Federal or State officials to assist disaster victims.

• The disaster organization is the entity that submits an application to KDA to use USDA foods in a presidentially declared disaster.
State Disaster Plan

- Kentucky Emergency Management
  http://kyem.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx
- The Red Cross (the identified disaster organization) will seek approval from KDA to use USDA commodity foods if it is determined to be necessary.
- KDA approves the use of commodities and helps to mobilize stored USDA foods for use by the Red Cross which may include commodities in schools.
Declared Disaster

Schools may be called upon by the Red Cross in a federally declared disaster:

- Be a congregate feeding site to serve meals to victims in a mass setting.

- Provide USDA foods to be served at another site
Declared Disaster

- KDA determines duration of food assistance and releases inventories as available;

- USDA arranges additional food as requested.
Situations of Distress Means:

a) a natural catastrophe not declared by the President to be a disaster, but which, in the judgment of FNS, warrants the use of USDA commodities for congregate feeding; and

b) any other situation not declared by the President to be a disaster, but which, in the judgment of FNS, warrants the use of USDA commodities for congregate feeding or household distribution.
Regulations

- 7 CFR Part 250.44: Requirements for assistance in Situations of Distress
Situations of Distress
*(No Presidential Declaration)*

- Red Cross seeks approval from KDA to use USDA Foods for a situation of distress.
- KDA approves the application and forwards it to USDA within 24 hours for final approval.
- KDA can approve the use of USDA Foods for up to 30 days.
- USDA approves extensions beyond 30 days.
Situations of Distress  
*(No Presidential Declaration)*

- Schools may be called upon in a situation of distress to provide commodity foods to relief organizations who have been approved to use USDA foods.

- Schools may be called upon to be a congregate feeding site.
Who is in charge?

When a relief organization is approved to use USDA foods and establishes a congregate feeding site in a school, the relief organization is in charge of the congregate feeding site.
Be a part of the plan!

• Establish a relationship with the disaster relief organization to determine the role of each organization should a school be needed as a congregate feeding site in a disaster.
• Identify responsibilities for recordkeeping, menu planning, preparing meals, clean up, staffing, repairs, etc...
• Get training and plan to be involved!

http://www.fema.gov/training-0
Do’s

• Cooperate with organization.
• Ensure the organization received permission to use federal commodities.
• Be tactful and diplomatic
• Remember who you are doing this for.
• Keep records as best you can for food used and meals served
• Have someone answer the phone and log all phone calls.
• Log all accidents with the name, address, and phone number of the victim, as well as details of what happened.
• Have volunteers sign in, record name, address and phone numbers.
• Be flexible, counts may go up and down quickly
• Be specific
• Be willing to make decisions quickly
Don’ts

• Turn over your kitchen to an outside organization and walk away

• Be afraid to ask for help

• Forget sanitation

• Be afraid to stand your ground on important issues
Recordkeeping

- Number of meals served
- Number of persons served
- Raw Commodity food used
- Processed Commodity food used
- Non Commodity food used
- Dates of operations
- Supplies used
- Time of volunteers and paid staff
- Menus used
- Supplies used
- Donations
- KY-FD-50 (KDA form)
Pre-planning with the local disaster relief organization will ensure that you don’t “do the don’ts”!
Disaster (Presidentially Declared)

• USDA replaces raw commodities used. (processed-only value of the raw commodity portion replaced)

• An alternate funding source must be utilized to cover all other costs.
Situations of Distress
*(No Presidential Declaration)*

- USDA will replace raw commodity foods if funding is available (replacement not guaranteed). Processed commodities are replaced with raw value only.

- An alternate funding source must be utilized to cover all costs.
Unanticipated School Closure

The Seamless Summer Option (SSO), the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and CACFP At Risk program may be utilized to feed during unanticipated school closures.
Unanticipated School Closure

Definition:
A natural disaster, unscheduled major building repair, court order relating to school safety or other issues, labor-management dispute, or other similar cause as approved by the State Agency.

SP 39-2014
Unanticipated School Closures

Non-traditional instruction days are not considered an unanticipated school closure.
SSO, SFSP and CACFP At Risk

- SFA’s participating in the NSLP may utilize SSO as part of their current agreement with the SA.*

- SFA’s with a current agreement with the SA to also participate in SFSP or the CACFP At Risk program have the option to utilize these programs as well.*

*October through April
SSO

- Serve up to 2 meals daily to persons in the community who are 18 years of age and younger.
- SBP, NSLP and ASCP meal pattern requirements must be met to be eligible for reimbursement.
- SSO meal count forms used to track meals served.
- Meals are submitted in CNIPS for reimbursement.
- Reimbursement rates are the same rate received for SBP, NSLP and ASCP in the current school year.
SSO

• Operate at non school sites. SA’s can approve a waiver if requested

• SA’s can approve a waiver for area eligibility requirements if requested

• Program requirements must be followed to submit for reimbursement.

SP 39-2014
**SSO**

- Sites can be added to current sponsor applications in CNIPS at anytime.
- All site related information can be “saved” without the dates of operation and meal service types.
- When approval needed, complete the site application(s) and submit for approval.

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SFSP

• Serve up to 2 meals daily to persons in the community who are 18 years of age and younger.
• SFSP meal pattern must be met to be eligible for reimbursement.
• SFSP meal count forms used to track meals served.
• Meals counts are submitted in CNIPS for reimbursement.
• Reimbursement rates are the same as the rate from the summer preceding the school closure.
CACFP At Risk

- May serve 1 meal and 1 snack
- If used as an emergency shelter may serve up to 3 meal types daily.
- CACFP meal pattern must be met to be eligible for reimbursement.
- Meal count forms used to track meals served.
- Meals counts are submitted in CNIPS for reimbursement.
- Reimbursement rates are the same as received in the current school year.
Self Funded Feeding

The Board of Education desires to provide community meals but does not want to provide them through SSO, SFSP or CACFP At-Risk and the Red Cross has not established a congregate feeding site at a school.
Self Funded Feeding

• Inquire with your insurance company and local health department concerning volunteers and the use of kitchen facilities and equipment.

• General Fund must cover all costs associated with feeding including food, supplies and labor.
Emergency Plan

- All SFA’s should have an emergency plan in place.

- Emergency plans should be updated annually or as needed to stay current.


Emergency Plan

• When developing an emergency plan, identify processes to implement SSO, SFSP or CACFP At Risk during an unanticipated school closure.

• Identify potential feeding sites and have them pre-approved with the appropriate program for quick approval when needed.
Training

• It would be beneficial for Child Nutrition Directors to obtain emergency training (FEMA website) and plan to be involved when a school is utilized as a congregate feeding site.

• Train Child Nutrition staff on the SFA’s emergency plan and their role when called upon in a disaster, situation of distress or implementation of SSO, SFSP and CACFP At Risk in an unanticipated school closure.
Financial Considerations

- In a declared disaster, with proper record keeping, the raw commodity foods will be replaced.
- Costs other than raw commodity foods may be covered if funds are available by the Red Cross, FEMA or other relief organizations.
- All remaining costs not reimbursed must be provided by another source (i.e. general fund).
Financial Considerations

• In situations of distress, with proper record keeping, raw commodity foods will be replaced if funds are available.

• When processed commodity foods are used, only the raw cost of the product is replaced in a situation of distress.

• All remaining costs not reimbursed must be provided by the general fund.
Financial Considerations

• The reimbursement rate for each program meal served is the only avenue for covering costs when providing meals through SSO, SFSP or CACFP At Risk.

• Costs for providing meals outside of the Red Cross establishing congregate feeding or serving meals to children through SSO, SFSP or CACFP At Risk must be provided through the general fund or other alternate funding source (i.e. general fund).
Thank you!

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