



FOOD RESOURCES FOR RESIDENTS OF MULTIFAMILY PROPERTIES

HUD encourages property owners, agents, and service coordinators to explore all local, state, and federal resources to assist residents with access to food, especially vulnerable residents living in HUD assisted housing.

Various federal resources are available to address food insecurity concerns for residents of HUD-assisted Multifamily properties.

- A key resource to connect older adults and their caregivers to meals and other community-based services is the U.S. Administration on Aging's Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116 or eldercare.acl.gov
- People with disabilities can locate their local Center for Independent Living at <https://www.ilru.org/projects/cil-net/cil-center-and-association-directory>. In addition, the Eldercare Locator can help people with disabilities find their local Aging and Disability Resource Center.
- Households who recently experienced a loss of income or who have very low income can check with their state human services agency about food benefits under the USDA Food and Nutrition Service's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Households with children who previously received free or reduced-cost school meals should contact their school, school district, or state education department about food benefits for children.
- Additional federal resources may be accessed following a major disaster

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Multifamily Housing Programs
Washington, DC 20410-0002



RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUAL RESIDENTS

USDA's Commodity Supplemental Food Program

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) provides a selection of fruit, juice, vegetables, milk, cheese, grains, and protein, including plant-based protein, each month. Participants must be at least 60 years of age and reside in one of the states or on one of the Indian reservations that participate in CSFP. (Women, infants, and children currently receiving CSFP benefits who were certified to receive such assistance on or before February 6, 2014 are also eligible to continue to receive assistance under the program rules in effect on that date.) Income limits also apply.

For more information about the program, click here:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/csfp/commodity-supplemental-food-program>

USDA Food and Nutrition Service's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a federal program that provides nutrition benefits to low-income individuals and families that are used at stores to purchase food. Normally a person is not eligible for SNAP benefits if an institution gives them most of your meals. However, there are exceptions for elderly persons and for disabled persons:

- Residents of federally subsidized housing for the elderly may be eligible for SNAP benefits, even if they receive their meals at the facility.
- Disabled persons who live in certain nonprofit group living arrangements (small group homes with no more than 16 residents) may be eligible for SNAP benefits, even if the group home prepares their meals for them.

There are other special SNAP rules for households with elderly or disabled members. More information about eligibility can be found at this link:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/recipient/eligibility>

Those who are found eligible will receive SNAP benefits on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card, which works like a debit card. Benefits are automatically loaded into the account each month. Beneficiaries can use their EBT card to buy groceries at authorized food stores and retailers.

For more information about the program, click here:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program>

The SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot was initiated to allow the use of SNAP benefits through participating online retailers. States that are currently approved to move forward with the pilot are Arizona, California, District of Columbia, Idaho and North Carolina. These States



expect to implement online purchasing in April/May 2020. More information can be found at this link: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/online-purchasing-pilot>

RESOURCES FOR MULTIFAMILY OWNERS/AGENTS

FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) National Board

The purpose of the EFSP is to supplement and expand the ongoing work of local social service organizations, both non-profit and governmental, to provide shelter, food and supportive services to individuals and families who have economic emergencies. Non-profit owners of HUD-assisted multifamily properties are eligible¹ to apply for funds from their local EFSP board to administer food assistance programs.

EFSP funding is open to all organizations helping hungry and homeless people, as well as organizations that support those at risk of becoming hungry or homeless due to economic hardships. The funds distribution is from the National Board to Local Boards at the county level, using a need-based formula. Local Boards publicly advertise the availability of funds in the print media and local social service organizations apply for the funds using their Local Board's written application process.

For more information, click on these links:

<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/24422>

<https://www.efsp.unitedway.org/efsp/website/index.cfm>

FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program

Under the Presidential emergency declarations, state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) government entities and certain private non-profit (PNP) organizations are eligible to apply for assistance under the FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Program. The PA Program will consider food as an emergency protective measure in some areas to meet the immediate needs of those who do not have access to food as a result of a disaster or other emergency situation.

While Public Housing Authorities are eligible to apply for the PA funding, Multifamily property owners are not eligible to apply directly to FEMA. However, Multifamily owners may contact the legally responsible SLTT government entities to inform them about the types of food insecurity issues their residents are facing, especially if residents belong to a

¹ See pages 10-13 of the "Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide" (FEMA, April 2018) for more information about eligible private non-profits: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/111781>. Low-income housing (as defined by Federal, State, Territorial, Tribal, or local law or regulation) is considered an eligible facility (See Table 2, page 13 https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1525468328389-4a038bbef9081cd7dfe7538e7751aa9c/PAPPG_3.1_508_FINAL_5-4-2018.pdf).



more vulnerable population. The input of Multifamily owners may be important as the SLTT entities put together plans for submission with their application for the PA program.

For more information, click here:

<https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/04/12/coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-purchase-and-distribution-food-eligible-public>

USDA's Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federally funded, state-administered program. SFSP reimburses program operators who serve free healthy meals and snacks to children and teens in low-income areas. If schools are closed due to a disaster or emergency situation, approved SFSP sites may offer grab-and-go meals. Multifamily owners may wish to consider offering their properties to program operators as a site for grab-and-go meal delivery for children and teens who reside in the building, in order to facilitate stay-at-home orders. See information at the following link for more information about how to become an "open" site for the community or a "closed site" for the residents of your building:

For more information, click on this link: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program>

Use this link to see existing sites in your area: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids>

