We have a few new announcements and program details to pass along to you and want to bring your attention to the various food programs and provisions that have been put in place by federal legislation over the past two months to ensure families in need have access to food. Additionally, we want to hear from you and/or your local food banks and non-profits tasked with organizing feeding programs to better understand the needs, hurdles, questions, concerns etc. We want to make sure our communities have access to the food programs and funding that has been made available. Please see more details below so do not hesitate to contact me for more information.

**If your community is having difficulty accessing food and financial assistance or coordinating feeding efforts for your residents, please let us know. We will be happy to assist you and your participating organizations in any way possible.**

**Food Access:** We have a few different points to share on food access and nutritional assistance, specifically to our elderly, children and those currently displaced due to COVID-19. On Friday, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced the details of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP). In addition to direct payments to farmers and ranchers, the CFAP program will allocate $3 billion in food purchases – including meat, dairy and produce – to deliver directly to food banks and non-profits working to provide food to those in need. This effort builds on top of other sources of funding through both the USDA, HHS and FEMA that was made possible by the CARES Act. More details of each provision is below.

**FEMA Authorized Food Purchases:** On April 11, FEMA issued a new policy that addresses the purchase and distribution of food eligible for Public Assistance funding under emergency and major disaster declarations for the COVID-19 pandemic.
- State, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments with the legal responsibility for protecting life, public health and safety are eligible applicants for assistance related to the purchase and distribution of food. SLTT applicants may enter into formal agreements or contracts with private organizations, including private nonprofit organizations such as food banks, to purchase and distribute food when necessary as an emergency protective measure in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In these cases, Public Assistance funding is provided to the legally responsible government entity, which would then reimburse the private organization for services under the agreement or contract.
- Use this link to apply for public assistance funding: [https://grantee.fema.gov](https://grantee.fema.gov)

**USDA Funding/Programs:** The USDA has increased both funding for existing food programs as well as announced a new commodity distribution program.
- Child nutrition programs: $8.8 billion for food purchases and increased flexibility for school meal programs (included in this was the authorization to distribute food to students outside of the traditional lunchroom setting)
- SNAP: $15.51 billion in additional funding to cover waivers granted under the Phase 2 Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which allows additional families to participate in the program
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program: $450 million in additional funding for emergency commodity purchase and distribution through community partners to families in need
- Coronavirus Food Assistance Program: $3 billion in commodity purchases for state and local food banks and non-profits. The USDA will work with existing food distribution companies, including those that serve the restaurant and retail industry, to distribute commodities to communities and non-profits.

**HHH Administration for Community Living Funding:** The Phase 3 CARES Act provided $955 million for the Administration for Community Living, which oversees the Older Americans Act nutrition programs - congregate nutrition programs and the home-delivered nutrition programs. The Phase 3 legislation relaxed the nutritional requirements and allowed for greater flexibilities in how and where seniors can access meals and nutritional programs.

**USDA Producer Payments:** USDA will be making $19 million in payments to producers impacted by a decline in demand and supply chain disruption due to COVID-19. Details of the plan are still being determined but the USDA hopes to begin sign up for the program in May. Any aspect of agriculture – including livestock, specialty crop growers and those who sell directly to consumers – that showed a substantial decline in market value and price from early January to April...
USDA Distance Learning, Tele-Medicine Applications Being Accepted: USDA has opened a second application window for funding under the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) grant program. This window includes an additional $25 million that Congress recently provided to the program under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, USDA is providing this additional window for those who were not able to complete applications prior to the first application deadline for the DLT program. Any money not awarded under the first application window will be made available in addition to the $25 million. Electronic applications for the second application window may be submitted through grants.gov beginning April 14 and are due no later than July 13. **Paper applications will not be accepted.** Additional information on how to apply is now available on grants.gov. Applicants eligible for DLT grants include most state and local governmental entities, federally recognized tribes, nonprofits, and for-profit businesses.

DCF Child Care Grants: The Kansas Dept of Children and Family Services announced last week it’s plans for disbursement of funds provided to it through the Child Care CDBG in the Phase 3 CARES Act. The program will provide child care subsidies to workers in qualifying industries as well as grants for the child care providers caring for the children of those eligible workers. DCF is providing more details here: [http://ksherorelief.com](http://ksherorelief.com) According to the website, funding will be available starting today.

As always, all of these resources and more are available at [Marshall.House.Gov](http://Marshall.House.Gov) – And we’re taking stores of people, businesses and communities making Lemonade from Lemons. Send us your story and we will add it to our new “good news” blog. Click [HERE](http://Marshall.House.Gov) to read what we have thus far.

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