



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

January 16, 2019

Dear Contracting Entities:

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is committed to providing you the most pertinent information regarding the impacts of the federal government shutdown on operations as it relates to TDA administered federal nutrition programs.

TDA has evaluated the availability of funds for each nutrition program and estimated the period of time the agency anticipates being able to pay Contracting Entities (CE) claims for reimbursement based on historic claims data. All TDA administered federal nutrition programs are reimbursement programs dependent on the availability of federal funding. TDA's current level of available funds is estimated to be able to pay claim reimbursements received in our office by the months indicated in the chart below.

FUNDING SOURCE	COVERED PROGRAMS	FUNDING COVERAGE END DATE
Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program	Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program	No funding currently available
Commodities Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)	Commodities Supplemental Food Program	2/15/2019
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)	The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)	3/15/2019
Child Nutrition Block Funding / Cash in Lieu Fund	CACFP Meals, Audit Funds, Sponsor Admin and CIL; National School Lunch and Breakfast Program; Special Milk Program	4/15/2019
WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program	WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program	5/31/2019
SAE (State Administrative Expenses)	TDA State Operations and Contracted Efforts including ESC	6/30/2019*
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program	Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program	7/30/2019
Equipment Grants	NSLP Equipment Grants	9/30/2020

*Assuming no reduction in state operations

Please note that the funding coverage end dates information is based on the current rate of claims and on a claim paid based on its filing date and not on the date of service. Also, the availability of TEFAP funds may be affected by Trade Mitigation Administrative Expenses which may now be charged to TEFAP funds.

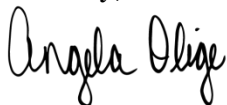
TDA Food and Nutrition CEs should review the impact of the federal government shutdown on their business operations. Should claim funding lapse, CEs have the option to utilize non-federal funds to fund program operations. Should the agency be authorized to retroactively pay claims for meals served or program costs for which contracting entities were not previously reimbursed, continued compliance with program regulations, including meal pattern requirements, must be maintained to be eligible to claim and receive applicable reimbursements. However, TDA cannot anticipate under what scenario funding may or may not be approved.

Funding to support the administrative functions of the agency is a separate funding source. Based on the current funding available, TDA anticipates it will continue all standard agency functions through June, 2019. Therefore, TDA and the Education Service Centers will continue to provide support to program operators, maintain all application and administrative timelines, conduct a full administrative review schedule(s) and continue to host planned conferences and training. These activities and agency responsibilities are funded separate and apart from accounts that pay CE claims.

TDA will continue to provide updates regarding funding estimates and all other information as it becomes available. For up to date information regarding the government shutdown and resources to assist CEs in preparing for the impact of potential lapse in program funding, please refer to www.Squaremeals.org. If you have additional questions or concerns, please call (877) TEX-MEAL.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Angela Olige
Assistant Commissioner

AO/cws/mdg