

COVID-19 Pandemic Guidance for the NC Senior Nutrition Program (6-22-2020)

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I. Overview

COVID-19 Crisis NC Older American Act Senior Nutrition Program				
	Older American Act (OAA)	Major Disaster Declaration	COVID-19 Families First Coronavirus Response Act	COVID-19 Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act
	Older Americans Act (OAA) OAA was reauthorized in March 2020 and will continue through 2024.	Major Disaster Declaration under the Stafford Act was issued to trigger Section 310(c) of the OAA on March 13, 2020- end date to be determined.	COVID-19 Families First Coronavirus Response Act FFCRA - Supplemental Appropriations #2, enacted on March 18, 2020; effective January 20, 2020 - September 30, 2021.	COVID-19 Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act - Supplemental Appropriations #3, enacted on March 27, 2020, and effective through September 30, 2021.
Basic Requirements	NC HCCBG funds allocated to Title III C-1: Congregate Nutrition Program (CNP) Title III C-2: Home-Delivered Meals Program (HDM)	North Carolina received Major Disaster Declaration March 25, 2020 (adds OAA flexibility)	COVID-19 Families First Coronavirus Response Act augments the OAA nutrition program by providing \$80 million for Title III C-1 and \$160 million for Title III C-2 to States; and \$10 million to Native American Tribes under Title VI. In addition, service match was waived in Supplemental #2.	COVID-19 CARES Act augments the OAA by providing \$200 million for Title III-B (Supportive Services); \$480 million for Title III-C (Nutrition Services); \$100 million for Title III-E (Caregiver); \$20 million for Title VI (Native American Tribes); \$20 million for Title VII (Ombudsman); \$50 million for ADRCs. In addition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service match was waived • Home bound includes individuals practicing social distancing

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further, it made these provisions applicable for funds awarded under Supplement #2 and #3.
Transfer Authority: B-C	Up to 30% can be transferred between B-C; and with waiver from ACL up to 100% under Section 316.	All monies can be bucketed into any Titles to be used for disaster relief, as needed.	Up to 30% can be transferred between B-C; and with waiver from ACL up to 100% under Section 316.	Up to 30% can be transferred between B-C; and with waiver from ACL up to 100% under Section 316.
Transfer Authority: C1-C2	Up to 40 % can be transferred between C1-C2; and with waiver from ACL up to 50%.	All monies can be bucketed into any Titles to be used for disaster relief, as needed.	100% transfer allowed between C1-C2.	100% transfer allowed between C1-C2.
DRI/DGA Intake Meal Requirements	<p>If meals are funded under C1 and C2, the DRIs and DGAs are required as ACL does not have authority to waive the DRIs and DGAs.</p> <p>If meals are purchased under III B, meals do not need to meet the requirements of DRIs and DGAs.</p>	<p>Disaster relief meals are not required to meet DRIs; however, ACL encourages the use of DRIs and DGAs to maintain health and manage chronic disease. NOTE: CNP clients may receive carry-out or home delivered meals NEW SERVICE CODE: 185.</p>	Meals purchased with supplemental funding are not required to meet DRIs; however, ACL encourages the use of DRIs and DGAs to maintain health and manage chronic disease.	Meals purchased with supplemental funding are not required to meet DRIs; however, ACL encourages the use of DRIs and DGAs to maintain health and manage chronic disease.
NSIP eligible	NSIP allocations are available to states that provide nutrition services in adherence to the requirements of the OAA. NSIP funds cannot be transferred to IIIB.	Title IIIB meals - no Title IIIC meals - yes	n/a	n/a
Client Eligibility	Traditional OAA and DAAS policies	DAAS 101 CRF short-form is allowable for C1 clients receiving Home-delivered meal	DAAS 101 CRF short- form is allowable for C1 clients receiving Home-delivered meal	DAAS 101 CRF short- form is allowable for C1 clients receiving Home-delivered meal

II. COVID Nutrition Program Service Codes

Nutrition Program Service Codes	Name	Description	NSIP
185	Congregate Nutrition-COVID	Code 185: Congregate Nutrition-COVID IIIC2 Congregate Meals Delivery/Carry-out The code represents carry-out meals or home-delivered meals provided to congregated nutrition program clients. One meal = One unit in ARMS.	Yes
025	Home-Delivered Meals IIIB Emergency Meal	Code 025: Home-Delivered Meals IIIB Emergency Meal The code represents meals to home-delivered meal clients that do not meet one-third of the recommended daily allowance dietary reference intake (RDA-DRI) requirements. One meal = One unit in ARMS.	No
186	Congregate Meals IIIB Emergency Meal	Code 186: Congregate Nutrition IIIB Emergency Meal The code represents meals to congregated nutrition program clients that do not meet one-third of the recommended daily allowance dietary reference intake (RDA-DRI) requirements. One meal = One unit in ARMS.	No
251	Transportation COVID (IIIB)	This code allows transportation to home-delivered and congregated nutrition program clients. One unit in ARMS is a one-way meal delivery trip to a client.	No
026	FF-Home-Delivered Meals	Code 026: FF- Home-Delivered Meals The code represents meals to home-delivered meal clients that may or may not meet one-third of the recommended daily allowance dietary reference intake (RDA-DRI) requirements using FF funding. One meal = One unit in ARMS.	No
187	FF-Congregate Meals	Code 187: FF-Congregate Meals The code represents meals to congregated nutrition program clients that may or may not meet one-third of the recommended daily allowance dietary reference intake (RDA-DRI) requirements using FF funding. One meal = One unit in ARMS.	No
900	FF-Non-unit Emerg Resp Cost Home-Delivered Meals Nutrition COVID	Code 900: FF-Non-unit Emerg Resp Cost Home-Delivered Meals Nutrition COVID The code represents emergency response costs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is intended to capture service provider's necessities such as personal protective equipment (PPE), food service equipment and other unique items that allow providers to continue service. Consumable supplies for participants are also allowable such as produce boxes. One item is the equivalent of one expense.	No
901	FF-Non-unit Emerg Resp Cost Congregate Nutrition COVID	Code 901: FF-Non-unit Emerg Resp Cost Congregate Nutrition COVID The code represents emergency response costs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is intended to capture service provider's necessities such as personal protective equipment (PPE), food service equipment and other unique items that allow providers to continue service. Consumable supplies for participants are also allowable such as produce boxes. One item is the equivalent of one expense.	No
028	CARES-Home-Delivered Meals	Code 028: FF-Home-Delivered Meals The code represents meals to home-delivered meal clients that may or may not meet one-third of the recommended daily allowance dietary reference intake (RDA-DRI) requirements using CARES funding. One meal = One unit in ARMS.	No
188	CARES-Congregate Meals	Code 1887: FF-Congregate Meals The code represents meals to congregated nutrition program clients that may or may not meet one-third of the recommended daily allowance dietary reference intake (RDA-DRI) requirements using CARES funding. One meal = One unit in ARMS.	No
902	CARES- Non-unit Emerg Resp Cost HDM COVID	Code 901: CARES-Non-unit Emerg Resp Cost Nutrition COVID The code represents HDM emergency response costs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is intended to capture service provider's necessities such as personal protective equipment (PPE), food service equipment and other unique items that allow providers to continue service. One item is the equivalent of one expense.	No
903	CARES- Non-unit Emerg Resp Cost Cong Nutr COVID	Code 901: CARES-Non-unit Emerg Resp Cost Nutrition COVID The code represents emergency response costs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is intended to capture service CNP provider's necessities such as personal protective equipment (PPE), food service equipment and other unique items that allow providers to continue service. One item is the equivalent of one expense.	No

III. Emergency Menus

Due to North Carolina's federal Major Disaster Declaration, the Older Americans Act Senior Nutrition Program may temporarily provide meals that do not meet one-third of the recommended daily allowance/dietary reference intake (RDA-DRI) requirements. When possible, nutrition program providers are encouraged to continue providing meals that meet the [Dietary Guidelines](#), as well as DAAS' nutrition program standards, but any meals that are generally nutritious and safe may be provided during the COVID-19 crisis. If meals are provided that do not meet the DAAS nutrition program standards, at a minimum, meals must include a serving of meat or meat alternative, 2 servings of grain, and a serving of a vegetable or fruit to be eligible for reimbursement using Title IIIB funding or Families First funding or CARES funding. Title IIIC cannot directly reimburse these meals but IIIC funds may be transferred to Title IIIB funds. New service codes are being developed by DAAS in ARMS to request Title IIIB meal reimbursement (unit-based reimbursement) or Family First funded meals or CARES meals. Socialization and well-checks are also an important part of the nutrition program. During this time, this can be accomplished by regularly calling the participants to confirm that meals were received and that they are doing well.

- Written menus are still required but may now be assessed for eligibility according to food content rather than nutrient analysis. Menu approval does not require an assessment by a registered dietitian; however, written menus must be kept on file for review by AAA monitors during onsite monitoring visits.
- HCCBG-funded nutrition service providers may assemble their own shelf stable meals. Multiple meals may be provided to an individual at the same time (e.g. five frozen meals in a box or the equivalent of five shelf stable meals in a grocery bag). Nutrition programs typically provide five meals per week, but additional meals per week may be provided during this time of social distancing and isolation.
- HCCBG-funded nutrition service providers who purchase meals are encouraged to continue using their current food caterers if possible but may partner with local restaurants or other vendors as needed.
- HCCBG-funded nutrition service providers must continue to comply with the food safety and sanitation practices issued in the [Rules Governing the Food and Protection and Sanitation of Food Establishments](#).
- All foods contained in the meals must be from approved federal or state agency sources.
- Title IIIB, Families First and CARES funded meals are not eligible for NSIP reimbursement.
- These revisions encompass the current HCCBG-funded congregate nutrition and home-delivered meals allocations as well as meals provided by new federal COVID-19 Disaster Relief funds.

IV. Resources

- National Resource Center on Nutrition & Aging: <https://nutritionandaging.org/covid-19/>
- Administration for Community Living: <https://acl.gov/COVID-19>
- NC DAAS Nutrition Program Standards: <https://files.nc.gov/ncdhhs/documents/files/Nutrition%20Service%20Standards.pdf>