

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING
Long-Term Care and Aging Services Division
1300 National Drive, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95834
www.aging.ca.gov
TEL 916-419-7540
FAX 916-928-2506
TTY1-800-735-2929



Frequently Asked Questions - #3

Guidance for Area Agencies on Aging for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Released March 19, 2020

General Guidance for Programs

- 1. Can the requirement for an RFP for new local home delivered meals contractors be waived so that new home delivery contract can be quickly executed quickly?**

The **California Code of Regulations (CCR) 7360 Noncompetitive Awards** allows for non-competitive awards when a public emergency exists. However, it is important to note that emergency contracts must be a reasonable time associated with the emergency. For example, if the emergency covers a two-month period, it would be considered unreasonable for the AAA to execute a contract for more than 6 to 12 months.

Source: CCR

Guidance for Title V/SCSEP

- 2. Should participants continue their community service/work experience activities scheduled at Host Agency sites that remain open?**

Per Governor Gavin Newsom's Coronavirus press conference held Sunday, March 15, 2020, new statewide guidance for adults age 65 and older or those with underlying health conditions is to practice self-isolation.

If more restrictive guidelines have been issued at the local level in affected counties (e.g. shelter in place), SCSEP participants should follow those directives.

Title III C

- 3. REVISED: Can service providers deliver meals to registered C-1 clients who are unable to attend a congregate meal site (example: site closure or**

transportation issue) or who are unwilling (example: social distancing) to pick-up meals distributed onsite?

Yes. Meals delivered to congregate clients who are unable or unwilling to attend a congregate meal or unable or unwilling to pick up meals distributed onsite are counted as C-1 meals in CARS (or in the database used) and are also to be tracked as “C-1 COVID19”. The AAA should have a system in place to track “C-1 COVID19” meals. **Please continue following the guidance above. Continue to count meals delivered to C-1 clients as C-1 meals and track them as “C-1 COVID19” meals. Any changes in guidance from the ACL that could result in revisions to how these meals are counted will be taken care of internally by the CDA and no AAA process or procedural changes will be required.**

Source: ACL, CDA

4. How should voluntary contributions be handled when providing meals in a drive-through option?

Voluntary contributions to clients using the drive-through option should be handled in the same manner as C-2. Provide those who participate using the drive-through option a copy of the voluntary contribution letter used for your C-2 clients, thus giving them the opportunity to contribute to the cost of the program.

Source: CDA

5. Can containers for to-go (i.e. take-out meals) be purchased with IIC funds?

Yes. Using IIC funds to purchase containers for packaging and distributing to-go meals is allowable.

Source: CDA

6. Do nutrition providers have the ability to count unplanned waste as meals served since it will be impossible to predict accurate serving levels during the COVID-19 pandemic?

No. Food waste or meals that are not served to clients may not be counted as meals. It is advised that nutrition providers strive to utilize meals by employing strategies such as freezing undistributed meals for future distribution, providing extra meals to those who pick up meals, deliver extra meals to C1 clients unable to pick up meals, deliver extra meals to C2 clients. Note – multiple meals may be provided to clients and counted accordingly.

Source: CDA

7. Can home-delivered meals be carried in ice chests?

The same food safe safety requirements apply: Potentially hazardous food is to be maintained at or above 135°F, or at or below 41°F. Meals may be delivered in ice chests as long as cold food is kept at or below 41°F and frozen food is kept in a frozen state.

Source: California Retail Food Code 113996(a)