

# Section 1

# Introduction

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# Section 1

## Introduction

### Program Description

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) was authorized under Federal Public Law 98-8, Title II, as amended.

In August 1996, TEFAP was amended by federal welfare reform legislation. The amendment included a requirement for states to consolidate TEFAP and another commodity assistance program, the Soup Kitchen and Food Bank (SKFB) Program, into a single program.

The consolidated commodity assistance program, TEFAP, was implemented on December 1, 1997. In Texas, TEFAP operated under the name “Texas Commodity Assistance Program (TEXCAP)” until 2011.

### Administration

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) has an agreement with the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to administer TEFAP in Texas and does so in accordance with federal and state requirements. These requirements can be referenced in the

- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 7 CFR Parts 250 and 251 and
- Texas Administrative Code (TAC) at Title 4, Part 1, Chapter 26.

TDA distributes funds and USDA Foods to participating contracting entities (CEs), that is, nonprofit organizations and public agencies, that

- determine the eligibility of applicants,
- receive, store, transport, and distribute USDA Foods to eligible participants, and
- conduct nutrition education activities for eligible participants.

TDA's responsibilities include the following tasks:

- Administering TEFAP in Texas
- Disbursing administrative funds
- Assisting CEs in the operation and management of the program
- Reviewing the program to ensure that reimbursement is used for program purposes and USDA Foods are distributed to eligible participants

CEs' responsibilities include the following tasks:

- Complying with the terms of the *TEFAP Agreement Between Contracting Entity and Texas Department of Agriculture* ("TEFAP Agreement")<sup>1</sup> and the *Application for Participation/Plan of Operation*<sup>2</sup>
- Complying with regulations set forth in 7 CFR 250 and 251
- Implementing and operating an approved financial management system
- Maintaining program records
- Submitting claims for reimbursement

## Other Programs

TDA administers TEFAP through agreements with nonprofit organizations or public agencies in Texas.

TDA also administers the following USDA programs:

- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- Special Milk Program (SMP)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- Food Distribution Program (FDP)
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), in limited areas
- Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), in limited areas
- Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), in limited areas
- Food Assistance for Disaster Relief

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<sup>1</sup> Go to <http://www.squaremeals.org/> and choose "Programs," "The Emergency Food Assistance Program," "TEFAP Administration and Forms," and enter the form name in the appropriate field.

<sup>2</sup> Located in the Texas Unified Nutrition Programs System (TX-UNPS), which can be accessed at [www.Squaremeals.org](http://www.Squaremeals.org).

Organizations may receive additional information about these programs by contacting:

Food and Nutrition  
Texas Department of Agriculture  
PO Box 12847  
Austin, TX 78711  
877-TEX-MEAL (877-839-6325)

Or by visiting our website at <http://www.SquareMeals.org>

If an organization is approved to participate in more than one program at the same time, the CE must ensure that it

- maintains separate records for each program and
- attributes costs to the appropriate program.

## Funding

Each year, USDA Foods and administrative funding are provided to TDA by the USDA to administer and operate TEFAP in Texas. TDA uses USDA monies to fund approved administrative costs associated with the operation of TEFAP.