



FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

Infant Formula and Food Provided to Disaster Survivors

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is committed to ensuring those impacted by a disaster or emergency have food to eat, including infants and young children. In the event of a Presidential Disaster Declaration, FNS can procure and provide an emergency supply of infant formula and food to supplement a State's or Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) disaster feeding efforts.

FEMA can provide infant and toddler kits containing formula, supplemental nutritional drinks, food products, diapers, and other essentials to families in need. If a State Agency or FEMA anticipates that the need for infant formula and food will extend beyond FEMA's initial provision, it may request additional formula and food for infants and nutritional supplemental drinks for children from FNS. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), in coordination with FNS's Office of Emergency Management, can quickly procure and ship these items to designated distribution points, often a FEMA staging area or State point of distribution. Shipments can usually reach affected areas of the continental United States within 48 hours of an approved request. Shipments outside this area may take considerably longer to reach their intended destination, depending on the circumstances.

Products Provided

FNS developed an Infant Formula and Food Calculator to help feeding entities estimate their needs when requesting items in the wake of a disaster. Based on need, FNS is able to provide infant formula, nipples, baby food, and baby cereals. In addition to standard milk-based formula, FNS can provide formula for infants with special dietary needs, including hypoallergenic and soy-based formulas. If needed, FNS can provide oral electrolyte solution, which can be dispensed under medical supervision to infants (0-12 months old), and supplemental nutritional drinks, which can be dispensed under medical supervision to children (1-10 years old).

All infant formula FNS provides in disaster situations is liquid ready-to-feed and should not be mixed with water. This allows for safe feeding during emergencies when there may be limited or unsafe water sources.

While FNS recognizes the importance of consuming consistent formula brands, due to procurement requirements, FNS cannot guarantee the brand of the infant formula that will be provided.

Breastfeeding Support

In a disaster, breastfeeding mothers are encouraged to continue to breastfeed, and responders are encouraged to develop a plan that supports breastfeeding mothers and infants during disasters. The plan may include both logistical and communication elements, such as raising awareness among new mothers of the benefits of continued breastfeeding, providing a private area for breastfeeding, and promoting breastfeeding as the safest source of food in an emergency.

For more information on Food and Nutrition Service disaster nutrition assistance, including fact sheets, blogs, and other resources, please visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster>.