State of South Carolina
Department on Aging

Henry McMaster
Governor

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Director

Program Instruction (PI)
Temporary Nutrition Program Changes Due to COVID-19

Effective March 13, 2020: The following protocols shall be followed by the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) if there is a need to close or establish alternative meal services at a Congregate Meal Site (Group Dining Site) because of COVID-19.

The decision to close meal sites will be determined by the regional AAA, after consulting with the local service providers and/or county Emergency Management Coordinators, as well as with guidance from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. The AAA shall notify the Department on Aging by the close of business on the day a site closes by emailing PSAHelp@aging.sc.gov.

The Older Americans Act does not allow meals consumed in a home or away from a Congregate Meal Site to be classified as a C-1 meal. Therefore, in the event that Congregate Meal clients are provided Home Delivered Meals or are allowed to take out meals from a nutrition site, those meals shall be classified as C2 COVID in AIM. It is the responsibility of the individual AAAs to request an AIM Activity for the COVID-19 Meals.

In addition, the Older Americans Act does not allow the Daily Recommended Intake (DRI) requirements for C1 or C2 funded meals to be waived. In the event that DRI compliant meals cannot be served, the SCDOA allows for the limited use of non-DRI compliant meals, using state HCBS funding, as long as it is a declared event. The AAA and its providers should use this option only if meals meeting the federal requirements cannot be delivered by the meal provider during the declared event. Every effort should be made to procure meals that are as close to the federal requirements for 1/3 DRI as possible during the event. The AAA and provider shall follow the protocols regarding reimbursement of non-DRI compliant meals found in Chapter 206 (R) of the South Carolina Aging Network's Policies and Procedures Manual.

During a site closure due to COVID-19, the AAAs shall assure the SCDOA that safety checks are made to ensure the well-being of the clients affected.

This Program Instruction is temporary and the SCDOA will notify the AAAs when it is rescinded.

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