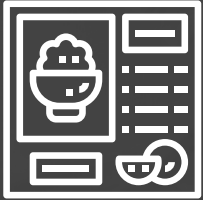




MANAGING SHORTAGES IN THE FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

Program operators across the nation have experienced challenges with purchasing and receiving foods through their normal distributions. Visit theicn.org/webinars/ to watch part one of the two-part webinar series.



BE FLEXIBLE

- Change the menu to better match vendor supply
- Understand and accommodate distributor issues that are out of their control
- Consider using alternative procurement methods (e.g., buying from grocery stores and local restaurants; using past vendors; going straight to the manufacturer)



COORDINATE

- Reach out to programs in your local area to share resources and strategies
- Consolidate the number of drop/delivery sites to make delivering easier for distributors



COMMUNICATE

- Communicate the challenge(s) with stakeholders, such as parents, teachers, and staff, and let them know what to expect. Educate stakeholders on nationwide challenges and their impact on child nutrition programs.
- Attend or host regular "town hall" style meetings to discuss the challenge(s) and share best practices with operators on a local and national scale (if feasible). Regular meetings can also be held with stakeholders to ensure they remain up to date on supply chain issues.
- Maintain constant communication with manufacturers and distributors to stay aware of challenges that can affect your operation



PLAN AHEAD

- Give your vendors plenty of lead time by placing orders 8–12 weeks in advance or as soon as possible
- Share your cycle menus with vendors so that they know what products are needed
- Keep menu substitution available in case challenges arise

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