



October 30, 2013

(Highlighted areas represent updated information)

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park Center
Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

FNS Response to Hurricane Sandy
CLOSEOUT REPORT

FNS approved the following waivers to assist State agencies in meeting the nutrition assistance needs of FNS program participants in States impacted by the devastating flooding, structural damage, and extended power outages caused by Hurricane Sandy which made landfall on October 29, 2012.

FNS provided disaster nutrition assistance, including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) replacement benefits and USDA Foods, to disaster survivors in 13 States in response to Hurricane Sandy.

Specific FNS disaster nutrition assistance responses by State included:

Connecticut:

The State received FNS approval of the SNAP:

- To issue automatic, mass replacement benefits to SNAP recipients in 18 additional towns (i.e. Avon, Barkhamsted, Bethlehem, Chaplin, Columbia, Glastonbury, Haddam, Harwinton, Hebron, Kent, Morris, New Hartford, North Branford, Oxford, Salisbury, Tolland, Windham, Woodbury). SNAP recipients who resided in these towns at the time of the disaster had 25 percent of their October 2012 SNAP benefits automatically added to their EBT cards. The State followed the provisions directly below for households that already received replacements based on a signed affidavit of loss, and clients that submitted affidavits after receiving the 25 percent mass replacement.
- To issue automatic, mass replacement benefits to SNAP recipients in the counties of Fairfield and New London, and in 31 towns in the 6 counties of New Haven, Middlesex, Litchfield, Hartford, Tolland and Windham. SNAP recipients who resided in these counties at the time of the disaster had 25 percent of their October 2012 SNAP benefits automatically added to their EBT cards. Households that already received replacements based on a signed affidavit of loss were excluded from the mass replacement process. Furthermore, if a client submitted an affidavit after receiving the 25 percent mass replacement and requested an amount greater than the replacement benefit amount received, the household was only entitled to receive the difference between the requested amount and the amount previously replaced.
- To extend the time SNAP recipients in Connecticut had to report loss of food purchased with October SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits by submitting signed affidavits of loss to their local SNAP office. SNAP recipients had until November 28, 2012, to submit affidavits of loss and request replacement benefits.
- Connecticut issued November SNAP benefits to ongoing SNAP recipients early, on November 1, 2012.

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The State received FNS approval of the Child Nutrition Programs:

- To waive the new meal pattern for New Haven, Connecticut schools.

Connecticut Department of Social Services SNAP Information:

<http://www.ct.gov/dss/cwp/view.asp?a=2353&q=411676>

FEMA Declared disaster counties:

<http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4087/affected-counties>

Delaware:**The State received FNS approval of the SNAP:**

- To extend the time SNAP recipients in Delaware had to report loss of food purchased with October SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits by submitting signed affidavits of loss to their local SNAP office. SNAP recipients had until November 7, 2012, to submit affidavits of loss and request replacement benefits.

Delaware Division of Social Services EBT Food benefits and disaster information:

<http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dss/>

District of Columbia:**The District received FNS approval of the SNAP:**

- To extend the time SNAP recipients in the District had to report loss of food purchased with October SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits by submitting signed affidavits of loss to their local SNAP office. SNAP recipients had until November 28, 2012, to submit affidavits of loss and request replacement benefits.

District of Columbia Department of Human Services SNAP information:

<http://dhs.dc.gov/service/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-snap>

Maryland:**The State received FNS approval of the SNAP:**

- To operate the Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP) in Somerset County for 7 days beginning January 7, 2013. Residents who resided in Somerset County as of October 28, 2012, and suffered disaster related damage, material losses, or loss of income from Hurricane Sandy were eligible for certification and may have applied for D-SNAP benefits.
- To issue automatic supplements¹ to all ongoing SNAP households in Somerset County. Ongoing households already receiving the maximum monthly SNAP allotment for household size were not eligible for supplemental benefits.
- To issue automatic, mass replacement benefits to SNAP recipients in Cecil, Garrett, Harford, and Somerset Counties. SNAP recipients who resided in these counties at the time of the disaster had 30 percent of their October 2012 SNAP benefits automatically added to their EBT cards. Households that

¹ D-SNAP supplemental benefits replacements are provided to eligible, ongoing SNAP recipients to bring their benefits up to the maximum allotment for their household size to provide equity in benefits with new D-SNAP households.

already received replacement benefits based on a signed affidavit of loss were excluded from the mass replacement process. Furthermore, if a client submitted an affidavit after receiving the 30 percent mass replacement and requested an amount greater than the replacement benefit amount received, the household was only entitled to receive the difference between the requested amount and the amount previously replaced.

- To extend the time SNAP recipients in Maryland had to report loss of food purchased with October SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits by submitting signed affidavits of loss to their local SNAP office. SNAP recipients had until December 21, 2012, to submit affidavits of loss and request replacement benefits.

Maryland Department of Human Resources Food Stamp Program Information:

<http://www.foodstamps.org/maryland-food-stamp-program>

Massachusetts:

The State received FNS approval of the SNAP:

- To extend the time SNAP recipients in Massachusetts have to report loss of food purchased with October SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits by submitting signed affidavits of loss to their local SNAP office. SNAP recipients had until November 28, 2012, to submit affidavits of loss and request replacement benefits.

Massachusetts Health and Human Services SNAP EBT information:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/consumer/basic-needs/food/snap/>

New Hampshire:

The State received FNS approval of the SNAP:

- To extend the time SNAP recipients in New Hampshire had to report loss of food purchased with October SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits by submitting signed affidavits of loss to their local SNAP office. SNAP recipients had until November 28, 2012, to submit affidavits of loss and request replacement benefits.

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services Food Stamp Program information:

<http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dfa/foodstamps/index.htm>

New Jersey:

The State received FNS approval of the SNAP:

- To operate the Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP) in 18 counties, including: Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren. Only residents of ZIP codes 08224, 08010, 08016, 08515, 08075, 08511, 08562, 08068, 07081, 08088, 07676, 08046, and 08562 in Burlington County and ZIP codes 08323, 08320, 08311, 08345, 08321, 08315, 08349, 08348, 08324, 08314, 08327, 08329, and 08316 in Cumberland County were eligible for D-SNAP. The D-SNAP application period began no earlier than Monday, November 26, 2012, through December 4, 2012, and in some counties operated on Saturday, December 1, 2012, as determined by the individual

counties. Specific dates for application were based on the first letter of the applicant's last name. Only residents who resided in the designated counties and ZIP codes above as of October 28, 2012, and who suffered disaster related damage, material losses, or loss of income from Hurricane Sandy were eligible for certification and may have applied for D-SNAP.

- To issue automatic supplements² to all ongoing SNAP households in Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties. Ongoing households in ZIP codes 08224, 08010, 08016, 08515, 08075, 08511, 08562, 08068, 07081, 08088, 07676, 08046, and 08562 in Burlington County and in ZIP codes 08323, 08320, 08311, 08345, 08321, 08315, 08349, 08348, 08324, 08314, 08327, 08329, and 08316 in Cumberland County who already requested replacement benefits may have been issued automatic supplements, as well. Other affected households in the above-mentioned ZIP codes may have requested supplemental benefits on an individual basis via a signed affidavit attesting to their disaster losses. Ongoing clients who already received the maximum monthly SNAP allotment for household size were not eligible for supplemental benefits.
- To issue automatic, mass replacement benefits to SNAP recipients in Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Monmouth, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties. SNAP recipients who resided in these localities at the time of the disaster had 30 percent (increased from 25 percent on November 13, 2012) of their October 2012 SNAP benefits automatically added to their EBT cards. Households that already received replacements based on a signed affidavit of loss were excluded from the mass replacement process. Furthermore, if a client submitted an affidavit after receiving the 30 percent mass replacement and requested an amount greater than the replacement benefit amount received, the household was only entitled to receive the difference between the requested amount and the amount previously replaced.
- To allow SNAP recipients in the following New Jersey counties: Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren to purchase hot foods and hot food products with SNAP benefits through December 31, 2012.
- To extend the time SNAP recipients in New Jersey had to report loss of food purchased with October SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits by submitting signed affidavits of loss to their local SNAP office. SNAP recipients had until November 28, 2012, to submit affidavits of loss and request replacement benefits.

The State received FNS approval of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC):

- To allow WIC foods substitutions for New Jersey WIC participants to substitute until November 30, 2012, two items (fluid milk and breads/grains) specified on the WIC check if they were not in stock due to storm related

² D-SNAP supplemental benefits are provided to eligible, ongoing SNAP recipients to bring their benefits up to the maximum allotment for their household size to provide equity in benefits with new D-SNAP households.

factors limiting store inventory.

Status of USDA Foods:

- FNS approved New Jersey's request for a household distribution program to assist families affected by Hurricane Sandy. The household distribution provided food boxes to approximately 20,000 families until November 30, 2012. The distribution took place in the following counties: Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, and Union.
- On November 2, 2012, the New Jersey Community Food Bank picked up 39,000 pounds of USDA Foods from Port Newark. The Food Bank prepared 15,000 meals per day for up to two weeks to help feed disaster survivors. USDA Foods provided 1/3 of the food for the meals.

New Jersey Department of Human Services SNAP information:

<http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dfd/programs/njsnap/>

FEMA Declared disaster counties:

<http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4086/affected-counties>

New York:

The State received FNS approval of the SNAP:

- To operate the Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP) in 10 complete and two partial zip codes within New York, Kings, Richmond, and Queens Counties, as follows:
 - The Coney Island (11224 and 11235) and Red Hook (11231) areas of the borough of Brooklyn
 - The Far Rockaway area of the borough of Queens (11691, 11692, 11693, 11694, and 11697)
 - The southeastern shore of the borough of Staten Island (10306)
 - Lower Manhattan (10002)
 - Residents south of Allen Avenue in Coney Island (11229) and south of Seaview Avenue on Staten Island (10305)

Residents who resided in the above areas as of October 27, 2012, and suffered disaster related damage, material losses, or loss of income from Hurricane Sandy were eligible for certification and may have applied for D-SNAP benefits for up to a 7 day period, beginning no earlier than December 12, 2012. Application sites were open between the hours of 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM.
- To issue automatic supplements³ to all ongoing SNAP households in the above mentioned zip codes. Ongoing clients already receiving the maximum monthly SNAP allotment for household size were not eligible for supplemental benefits.
- To operate the Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP) in Westchester County. Westchester County residents who resided in the county as of October 27, 2012, and suffered disaster related damage, material losses, or loss of income from Hurricane Sandy were eligible for certification and may have applied for D-SNAP benefits, beginning no earlier than Friday, November 16, 2012, and ending on November 26, 2012. The application period did not include Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 2012. The State planned to use the following Westchester County

³ D-SNAP supplemental benefits are provided to eligible, ongoing SNAP recipients to bring their benefits up to the maximum allotment for their household size to provide equity in benefits with new D-SNAP households.

Department of Social Services (WCDSS) offices and alternative locations as application sites: Yonkers District Office, White Plains District Office, Peekskill District Office, and the White Plains Disaster Recovery Center (DRC). The DRC was open to accept applications all days, including the weekend, between the hours of 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM; WCDSS offices were open to accept applications on business days between the hours of 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, and may also have operated on the weekend at the State agency's discretion.

- To issue automatic supplements to all ongoing SNAP households in Westchester County. Ongoing clients who already received the maximum monthly SNAP allotment for household size were not eligible for supplemental benefits.
- To issue automatic, mass replacement benefits to SNAP recipients in 3 additional ZIP codes in New York City: 10038 – Lower Manhattan, Chinatown; 11224 – Sea Gate/Coney Island, Brooklyn; and 11251 – Williamsburg, Navy Yard, Brooklyn. SNAP recipients who resided in these ZIP codes at the time of the disaster had 50 percent of their October 2012 SNAP benefits automatically added to their EBT cards. The State followed the provisions directly below for households that already received replacements based on a signed affidavit of loss, and clients that submitted affidavits after receiving the fifty percent mass replacement.
- To issue automatic, mass replacement benefits to SNAP recipients in Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan and Westchester Counties and 76 designated ZIP codes in New York City. SNAP recipients who resided in these counties and ZIP codes at the time of the disaster had 50 percent of their October 2012 SNAP benefits automatically added to their EBT cards. Households that already received replacements based on a signed affidavit of loss were excluded from the mass replacement process. Furthermore, if a client submitted an affidavit after receiving the fifty percent mass replacement and requested an amount greater than the replacement benefit amount received, the household was only entitled to receive the difference between the requested amount and the amount previously replaced.
- To allow SNAP recipients in the following New York areas/counties: Bronx, Kings, Richmond, Queens, New York, Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk, Westchester, Orange, Putnam, and Sullivan to purchase hot foods and hot food products with SNAP benefits, and to consume them on-premise, where practical, through January 31, 2013.
- To extend the allowance for SNAP recipients in the following New York areas/counties: Bronx, Brooklyn (Kings), Manhattan (New York), Queens, Staten Island (Richmond), Nassau, and Suffolk to purchase hot foods and hot food products with SNAP benefits, and to consume them on-premise, where practical, through April 30, 2013.
- To extend the time SNAP recipients in New York had to report loss of food purchased with October SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits by submitting signed affidavits of loss to their local SNAP office. SNAP recipients had until November 28, 2012, to submit affidavits of loss and request replacement benefits.

The State received FNS approval of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC):

- To allow WIC foods substitutions for participants in 7 New York Counties: Bronx, New York, Queens, Richmond, Kings, Nassau, and Suffolk. WIC participants in the approved counties were able to substitute for a two-week period 4 items

(fluid milk, breads/grains, cheese, and peanut butter) specified on the WIC check if they were not in stock due to storm related factors limiting store inventory.

The State received FNS approval of the Child Nutrition Programs:

- To allow an extension of administrative flexibility to serve and claim all meals as free that were served through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) in 3 NYC districts (21, 27, and 31) through June 30, 2013.
- To allow an extension of administrative flexibility to serve and claim all meals as free that were served through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) in 7 NYC districts (1,2,15,21,22,27,and 31) through March 31, 2013.
- To allow an extension of administrative flexibility to serve and claim all meals as free that were served through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) in 7 NYC districts (1,2,15,21,22,27,31) and 2 charter schools (Lavelle Preparatory and Coney Island Preparatory) for the month of January 2013.
- To allow New York an extension to operate universal feeding programs and receive free reimbursement for all meals served through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) for the month of December at three charter schools in New York City: Lavelle Preparatory Charter School, Coney Island Preparatory Charter School – Staten Island, and Riverton Street Charter School – Queens.
- To allow an extension of administrative flexibility to New York City Public School Districts to serve and claim all meals as free that were served through the NSLP and SBP for the month of December.
- To allow the Archdiocese of New York to operate universal feeding programs and receive free reimbursement for all meals served through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) for the month of November.
- To allow schools in New York City to deviate from the published menu, substituting available foods from inventory and incoming shipments. Schools still tried to meet the meal pattern.
- To allow administrative flexibility to New York City Public School Districts and in six charter schools to serve and claim all meals as free that were served through the NSLP and SBP for the month of November.

Status of USDA Foods:

- FNS approved New York's request to provide USDA Foods to households impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Approximately 1.1 million pounds of household size USDA Foods, valued at approximately \$721,178, were distributed between November 4 through November 30, 2012, to households through 1,000 designated emergency feeding outlets in the areas of Westchester and Rockland Counties, New York City, and Long Island.
- FNS approved the purchase of infant formula and baby food to supplement the Infant/Toddler Kits provided by FEMA to support food distribution operations in New York City. The products could feed 40 infants and children for 1 week at an estimated cost of \$12,000. Food Delivery was scheduled for Friday, November 9.

New York Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance SNAP EBT Information:

<http://otda.ny.gov/programs/snap/>

FEMA Declared disaster counties:

<http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4085/affected-counties>

North Carolina:

The State received FNS approval of the SNAP:

- To extend the time SNAP recipients in North Carolina had to report loss of food purchased with October SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits by submitting signed affidavits of loss to their local SNAP office. SNAP recipients had until November 28, 2012, to submit affidavits of loss and request replacement benefits.

North Carolina Division of Social Services Food and Nutrition Services EBT information:

<http://www.ncdshs.gov/dss/foodstamp/index.htm>

Pennsylvania:

The State received FNS approval of the SNAP:

- To issue automatic, mass replacement benefits to SNAP recipients in 11 counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Pike, Cameron, Clearfield and Juniata. SNAP recipients who resided in these counties at the time of the disaster had 40 percent of their October 2012 SNAP benefits automatically added to their EBT cards. Households that already received replacements based on a signed affidavit of loss were excluded from the mass replacement process. Furthermore, if a client submitted an affidavit after receiving the 40 percent mass replacement and requested an amount greater than the replacement benefit amount received, the household was only entitled to receive the difference between the requested amount and the amount previously replaced. The State expected to make benefits available on or about November 16th.
- To extend the time SNAP recipients in Pennsylvania had to report loss of food purchased with October SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits by submitting signed affidavits of loss to their local SNAP office. SNAP recipients had until November 28, 2012, to submit affidavits of loss and request replacement benefits.

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare SNAP EBT ACCESS Card information:

http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/foradults/supplementalnutritionassistanceprogram/D_000639

Rhode Island:

The State received FNS approval of the SNAP:

- To issue automatic, mass replacement benefits to SNAP recipients in Charlestown, Exeter, Foster, Glocester, Hopkinton, Jamestown, Little Compton, Middletown, Narragansett, Newport, Richmond, South Kingstown, Tiverton, Westerly, and Scituate localities. SNAP recipients who resided in these counties at the time of the disaster had 25 percent of their October 2012 SNAP benefits

automatically added to their EBT cards. Households that already received replacements based on a signed affidavit of loss were excluded from the mass replacement process. Furthermore, if a client submitted an affidavit after receiving the 25 percent mass replacement and requested an amount greater than the replacement benefit amount received, the household was only entitled to receive the difference between the requested amount and the amount previously replaced.

- To extend the time SNAP recipients in Rhode Island had to report loss of food purchased with October SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits by submitting signed affidavits of loss to their local SNAP office. SNAP recipients had until November 28, 2012, to submit affidavits of loss and request replacement benefits.

Rhode Island Department of Human Services SNAP information:

<http://www.dhs.ri.gov/FamilieswithChildren/FoodAssistance/tabid/824/Default.aspx>

Virginia:

The State received FNS approval of the SNAP:

- To issue automatic, mass replacement benefits to SNAP recipients in Accomack County. SNAP recipients who resided in this county at the time of the disaster had 29 percent of their October 2012 SNAP benefits automatically added to their EBT cards. Households that already received replacements based on a signed affidavit of loss were excluded from the mass replacement process. Furthermore, if a client submitted an affidavit after receiving the 29 percent mass replacement and requested an amount greater than the replacement benefit amount received, the household was only entitled to receive the difference between the requested amount and the amount previously replaced.
- To extend the time SNAP recipients in Virginia had to report loss of food purchased with October SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits by submitting signed affidavits of loss to their local SNAP office. SNAP recipients had until November 28, 2012, to submit affidavits of loss and request replacement benefits.

Virginia Department of Social Services SNAP EBT information:

<http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/foodstamp.cgi>

West Virginia:

The State received FNS approval of the SNAP:

- To extend the time SNAP recipients in West Virginia had to report loss of food purchased with October SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits by submitting signed affidavits of loss to their local SNAP office. SNAP recipients had until November 28, 2012, to submit affidavits of loss and request replacement benefits.

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources SNAP information:

http://www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/family_assistance/fs.asp

*If you think you may be eligible for disaster food assistance in your State, please contact your local State agency for application requirements, date and site information: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/outreach/map.htm>.