



May 31, 2013

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

3101 Park Center  
Drive

Alexandria, VA  
22302-1500

## FNS Response to Oklahoma Tornadoes

**FNS has approved the following waivers to assist Oklahoma in meeting the nutrition assistance needs of FNS program participants and low-income residents impacted by the devastating tornadoes that struck the area of Moore, Oklahoma, on May 20, 2013.**

### **The State received FNS approval of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):**

- **New item:** On May 30<sup>th</sup>, FNS approved the State's request to issue automatic, mass replacement benefits to regular SNAP recipients in Cleveland County (zip codes - 73160, 73165, 73170); Lincoln County (zip codes - 74832, 74881, 74864); McClain County (zip code - 73065); Oklahoma County (zip codes - 73007, 73054); and Pottawatomie County (zip codes - 74801, 74804) who lost power for more than 4 hours as a result of the storms and a tornado that struck on May 18, 2013. SNAP recipients who resided in the zip codes within the five counties at the time of the disaster will have 75 percent of their May 2013 SNAP benefits automatically added to their EBT cards. Households that have already received replacements based on a signed affidavit of loss must be excluded from the mass replacement process. Furthermore, if a client submits an affidavit after receiving the 75 percent mass replacement and requests an amount greater than the replacement benefit amount received, the household is only entitled to receive the difference between the requested amount and the amount previously replaced.
- To extend the time SNAP recipients in 16 counties have to report loss of food purchased with May SNAP benefits and to request replacement benefits by submitting signed affidavits of loss to their local SNAP office. SNAP recipients have until June 28, 2013, to submit affidavits of loss and request replacement benefits. The counties include Caddo, Cleveland, Comanche, Creek, Garfield, Grant, Greer, Kiowa, Lincoln, Logan, McClain, Okfuskee, Oklahoma, Pawnee, Payne and Pottawatomie. (May 28, 2013)
- To operate a Disaster-SNAP (D-SNAP) in the five counties with a Presidential declaration of major disaster eligible for Individual Assistance: Cleveland, Lincoln, McClain, Oklahoma, and Pottawatomie. The State will start accepting applications in the five counties' DHS offices and two Disaster Relief Centers located in Shawnee and Monroe on Thursday, May 30, 2013, for an application period of five business days. Only households who resided in these counties on May 18<sup>th</sup> and suffered disaster related damage, material losses, loss of income, or inaccessibility of liquid resources due to the storms and tornadoes will be eligible for certification using D-SNAP criteria. Households that experienced food loss as their only adverse affect will not be considered eligible for D-SNAP assistance. Current SNAP recipients may complete an affidavit confirming disaster related expenses and receive supplemental benefits up to the maximum allotment for the household size. (May 26, 2013)

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**Oklahoma Department of Human Services EBT SNAP Information:**

<http://www.okdhs.org/programsandservices/snap/>

**FEMA Declared disaster counties:**

<http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4117/designated-areas>

\*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>.