

## **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefit Replacement**

If you lost food purchased with SNAP benefits due to Hurricane Sandy, there is help available. Current SNAP households that have lost food purchased with their benefits as a result of the storm are entitled to replacement benefits.

### **Q - What do I need to do?**

A - If you are a current SNAP recipient and live in Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan or Westchester counties, or one of select zip codes areas in New York City that experienced extended power loss, including all of Staten Island, partial (50%) replacement SNAP benefits will automatically be deposited in your Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) account beginning the week of November 5th. A complete list of zip codes in New York City that are included can be found at [otda.ny.gov/news/SNAP-replacements.pdf](http://otda.ny.gov/news/SNAP-replacements.pdf). Additional zip codes in New York City may be added as more power loss information becomes available.

### **Q - How much are these replacement SNAP benefits worth?**

A - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has agreed to provide current SNAP recipients in these areas with 50% percent of their October monthly benefit amount.

### **Q - What if I don't live in one of the areas receiving the automatic benefit replacement?**

You can still request replacement SNAP benefits from your local department of social services by following these steps:

- You must report the loss of food purchased with SNAP benefits to your local social services office by Wednesday, November 28, 2012, either verbally or in writing.
- You must then sign and return a completed “*Request for Replacement of Food Purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits*” form by close of business Monday, December 10, 2012. There are two versions of this form – you may use either version if you live in a county outside of New York City. If you live in New York City, you are asked to use the LDSS-2291A form.  
<http://otda.ny.gov/programs/applications/2291A.pdf>  
<http://otda.ny.gov/programs/applications/2291A-SP.pdf>  
<http://otda.ny.gov/programs/applications/2291.pdf> (Versions of this form in other languages may be found at this link: <http://otda.ny.gov/programs/applications/> ).
- The above form may be mailed or faxed to your **local social services office** or center. In NYC the forms may be mailed to:

Division of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Services  
Mail Application & Referral Unit (MARU)  
PO Box 24510  
Brooklyn, New York 11201

SNAP Replacement Forms may be faxed to:

NYC: FAX: 917-639-1111  
Nassau: FAX: 516-227-8708  
Orange: FAX: 845-291-4355  
Putnam: FAX: 845-225-8635  
Rockland: FAX: 845-364-3021  
Suffolk: FAX: 631-854-9900  
Sullivan: FAX: 845-292-1320  
Westchester: FAX: 914-995-6768

- You may also follow these steps if you live in Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan or Westchester counties, or in one of select zip codes areas in New York City, and need more than you are automatically provided.

**Q – How do I find my local social services office?**

To find your local department of social services, visit [otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/dss.asp](http://otda.ny.gov/workingfamilies/dss.asp), or call 1-800-342-3009.

**Q - Will receiving the replacement SNAP benefits affect my November monthly SNAP benefit amount?**

No, you will still receive the same monthly benefit amount you normally receive in November, and you will receive your benefits on the same day of the month that you normally receive your benefits.

**Q – Can I use my SNAP benefits to purchase hot foods and prepared foods?**

A – Current SNAP recipients in these seven counties and in all of New York City are now able to use their benefits to purchase hot foods and prepared foods.

**Q – Where can I use my SNAP benefits to purchase hot or prepared food?**

A - The food must be purchased at authorized retailers, like grocery stores, that already accept your SNAP benefit card (your Electronic Benefit Transfer – EBT – card).

**Q – For how long may I use my SNAP benefits to purchase hot or prepared food?**

From now until November 30, 2012.

**Q – What if my store doesn't know that I can use my SNAP benefits to purchase hot or prepared food?**

A – New York State and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are working on informing retailers of this new policy. If you encounter a retailer who isn't aware of the new policy, please ask them to call 1-877-823-4369 for more information.