

**GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**  
**Center for Employment & Economic Supports**

**September 20, 2011**

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**TO:** Commissioners; TA & FS Directors; WMS Coordinators; CAP Coordinators

**FROM:** Russell Sykes, Deputy Commissioner, Center for Employment and Economic Supports

**SUBJECT:** Requests for Replacement August Food Stamp Benefits due to Hurricane Irene

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

**CONTACT PERSON:** FS Questions – Food Stamp Policy Bureau (518) 473-1469

**Background**

Food stamp benefit recipient households residing in any of the counties that received Disaster Declarations for Individual Assistance who lost food due to the effects of Hurricane Irene were given an extended filing period – **until close of business (COB) on Friday, September 23, 2011** - for reporting the loss of food and requesting replacement of **August** food stamp benefits. LDSSs were notified to continue to accept and process reports of food loss and requests for replacement of food stamp benefits until further notice in GIS 11TA/DC019, date September 7, 2011.

**Twenty-eight (28) counties received Disaster Declarations for Individual Assistance as a result of Hurricane Irene. They are as follows:** Albany County, Bronx County, Clinton County, Columbia County, Delaware County, Dutchess County, Essex County, Greene County, Herkimer County, Kings County, Montgomery County, Nassau County, Orange County, Otsego County, Putnam County, Queens County, Rensselaer County, Richmond County, Rockland County, Saratoga County, Schenectady County, Schoharie County, Suffolk County, Sullivan County, Ulster County, Warren County, Washington County, and Westchester County.

**Purpose**

**The purpose of this GIS is to instruct these local districts to continue to accept initial reports of food loss due to the storm and requests for replacement of food stamp benefits until close of business (COB) on Friday, September 23, 2011. The local districts may continue to process any reports of food loss or requests for replacement received by this date under the following standards.**

- If the initial report of loss of food (for example, if the household calls to report the loss) is **not** accompanied by the filing of a LDSS-2291 “*Request for Replacement of Food Purchased with Food Stamp Benefits,*” at the time of the initial report, then the household must be provided with a copy of the LDSS-2291 to complete and return.
- Once the initial report of loss has been received, the household must return a signed and completed form LDSS-2291 “*Request for Replacement of Food Purchased with Food Stamp Benefits,*” (Rev 8/03) within 10 days of the date of the report of loss. If the 10th

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- day falls on a weekend or holiday, a statement received the first business day after the weekend or holiday is acceptable.
- As long as the initial report of loss has been filed by COB Friday, September 23, 2011, then an LDSS-2291 received after 9/23, but no later than 10 days following the initial report of loss may be processed.
  - No requests for replacement of August food stamp benefits due to Hurricane Irene should be processed after September 23, 2011 **for any household that did not report food loss (either by filing a LDSS-2291 or other written, phone or in-person notice) by COB Friday, September 23, 2011.**

See 11 GIS TA/DC018, dated September 2, 2011 for further details on food stamp benefit Request for Replacement policy. Here is the link:

<http://otda.state.nyenet/dta/GIS/11dc018.pdf>

**Note:** The six counties that received Disaster Declarations for Individual Assistance due to **Tropical Storm Lee** should continue to accept and process requests for replacement of food stamp benefits due to loss of food until further notice. The six counties that have received Disaster Declarations for Individual Assistance due to Tropical Storm Lee are **Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego, Schenectady and Tioga Counties.**