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DIVISION: Center for Employment and Economic Supports

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TO: Commissioners; TA and FS Directors; WMS Coordinators; CAP Coordinators

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

SUBJECT: Extension of Requests for Replacement of Food Stamp Benefits Due to Hurricane Irene

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

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

Background

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

Seven (7) Counties received Disaster Declarations for Individual Assistance as a result of Tropical Storm Lee. They are as follows: Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego, Schenectady, and Tioga Counties.

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 30, 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

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- the report of loss. If the 10th 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 30, 2011, then an LDSS-2291 received after 9/30, but no later than 10 days following the initial report of loss may be processed.
 - No requests for replacement of food stamp benefits due to either Hurricane Irene or Tropical Storm Lee should be processed after September 30 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 30, 2011.**
 - **Reminder:**
 - For Irene, it is **August** benefits that are being replaced.
 - The flooding and power outages due to Tropical Storm Lee began on 9/7 toward the end of the September benefit issuance cycle. For those households requesting that already had received and redeemed their September issuance, the replacement benefit should be for September. For those households that had not yet received their September benefit, the replacement should be for August.

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>

Although most of you have reported that requests for replacements due to Hurricane Irene have declined, USDA granted this extension so that the end dates for the request for replacements for both disasters could be aligned and, hopefully, reduce confusion for both those requesting replacements and the local social services district staff taking and processing them.