

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
Center for Employment & Economic Supports

November 6, 2012

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TO: Subscribers**Suggested Distribution:** Commissioners; TA & SNAP Directors; WMS Coordinators**FROM:** Phyllis Morris, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Center for Employment and Economic Supports**SUBJECT:** Mass Authorization for Replacement of 50% SNAP October Benefits**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately**CONTACT PERSON:** SNAP Policy: SNAP Bureau at (518) 473-1469
Systems Questions: Bob Markham at (518) 474-2166**Background**

GIS TA/DC022, dated November 2, 2012, instructed local districts to accept reports of loss of food purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, due to Hurricane Sandy, until close of business, November 28, 2012. It also informed local districts that households reporting such a loss have until December 10, 2012 to file a signed and completed LDSS-2291 or LDSS-2291A "Request for Replacement of Food Purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits" form.

Purpose

The purpose of this GIS is to advise local districts that the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) has received approval from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to conduct a mass replacement of SNAP benefits for SNAP recipients in **Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan and Westchester Counties**.

Program Implications

Currently active SNAP households in the districts listed above will have a replacement SNAP benefit authorized that will be equal to 50% of the households October benefit issuance (including combined issuances for September/October or October/November) to the household prior to the onset of the storm on October 29th. The mass authorization of the replacement SNAP benefits ran on WMS on Monday, November 5, 2012. There will be a staggered issuance of the replacement benefits. The first half of the benefits issued will be available in recipients' EBT accounts on Wednesday, November 7, 2012 at 12:01 a.m. The second half of the benefits issued will be available in recipients' EBT accounts on Thursday, November 8, 2012 at 12:01 a.m. The 50% replacement issuance will be rounded up to the next whole dollar.

Households that already applied for and received a SNAP replacement issuance for food lost due to Hurricane Sandy prior to the running of the mass replacement authorization are excluded from the mass replacement issuance.

Recipients of the mass SNAP replacement still may file an individual request for replacement for the difference between the amount of the mass replacement benefit and the cost of food lost as a result of the

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disaster up to the full amount of the most recent SNAP issuance received by the household prior to the disaster.

Example: A household received its regular monthly SNAP benefit of \$300 on October 4th. It received a mass replacement issuance of \$150 (50% of its October benefit) on November 8th. The household still can file an individual request for replacement of food lost due to the disaster for the remaining 50% (up to \$150) of its October benefit amount.

Systems Implications

A letter providing criteria for the October replacement benefits mass authorized was sent to WMS Coordinators on Monday, November 5, 2012.