

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
Center for Employment & Economic Supports

November 6, 2012
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TO: Subscribers

Suggested Distribution: Commissioner and HRA Managers; Job Center and SNAP Center Directors;
Systems 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: Dave Spielman at (212) 961-8184

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 the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) 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 select New York City ZIP Codes. See the link below for a complete list of the ZIP Codes included in the mass replacement:

<http://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2012/SNAP-replacements.pdf>

In order to be approved for the mass replacement, a majority of the residents of a ZIP Code had to have been affected by the storm, either through a power outage lasting more than four hours or by flooding.

Program Implications

Currently active SNAP households in the listed ZIP Codes will have a replacement SNAP benefit authorized that will be equal to 50% of the household's October benefit issuance (including combined issuances for September/October or October/November) to the household prior to the onset of the storm on October 29, 2012. The mass authorization of the replacement SNAP benefits ran on WMS Monday, November 5, 2012. There will be a staggered issuance of the replacement benefits based upon the last digit of the case number. The first half of the benefits issued will be available in recipients' EBT accounts on Wednesday, November 7, 2012 at 12:01 a.m. for cases ending in numerals 0 – 4. The second half of the benefits issued will be available in recipients' EBT accounts on Thursday, November 8, 2012 at 12:01 a.m. for cases ending in numerals 5 – 9. The 50% replacement issuance will be rounded up to the next whole dollar.

Households that already applied for and received a 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 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 disaster up to the full amount of the most recent SNAP issuance received by the household prior to the disaster.

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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

Cases eligible for the mass replacement will receive an automated FS Single Issue Payment Code 18 – Disaster Related Issuance (for TA/SNAP cases) and 19 - Disaster Related Issuance (for SNAP only cases) with a payment period of 10/1/12 – 10/31/12.