

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

**November 6, 2012**

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**TO:** Subscribers

**Suggested Distribution:** Commissioners , TA Directors, SNAP Directors

**FROM:** Phyllis Morris, Acting Deputy Commissioner

**SUBJECT:** Waiver Approval to Allow SNAP Purchase of Hot and Prepared Foods at Authorized FNS Retailers in the following areas affected by Hurricane Sandy: New York City, and the counties of Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Suffolk and Westchester

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** November 3 - November 30, 2012

**CONTACT PERSON:** SNAP Policy Bureau (518) 473-1469

**Purpose**

The purpose of this GIS is:

- To advise local social services districts that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved a waiver to **temporarily** allow SNAP recipients to purchase hot and prepared foods with SNAP benefits at USDA-authorized SNAP retailers in the following areas most severely affected by Hurricane Sandy: **New York City, and the counties of Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Suffolk and Westchester**, and
- To request that districts assist in informing SNAP clients in affected districts that they are able to use their EBT card and SNAP benefits to purchase hot foods and prepared food items at authorized SNAP retailers through November 30, 2012.

The waiver is in effect from November 3 through November 30, 2012.

New York State and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are working on informing retailers of this new policy.