

**DATE:** March 28, 2018

**TO:** Subscribers

**SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION:** Commissioners, TA and SNAP Directors

**FROM:** Jeffrey Gaskell, Assistant Deputy Commissioner  
Employment and Income Support Programs

**SUBJECT:** Loss of Food – March Snow Storms – USDA Approved Replacement  
Extension

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

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

Due to the recent snow storms that occurred across New York State (NYS) on March 2, 2018 and March 7, 2018, we are issuing this GIS to notify all local districts impacted by this severe weather that the normal time frame for replacement of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits has been extended. This applies to any SNAP household in receipt of benefits that suffered a loss of food due to these storms and resulting power outages.

Current SNAP recipient households that have lost food purchased with SNAP benefits due to a disaster or household misfortune are entitled to a replacement issuance of benefits provided that:

- The household reports the loss within 10 days of the date of the misfortune; **and**,
- The household returns a signed and completed form [LDSS-2291](#) "Request for Replacement of Food Purchased with Food Stamp Benefits," within 10 days of the date of the report of loss. If the 10th day falls on a weekend or holiday, a statement received the day after the weekend or holiday is acceptable.

Due to the widespread nature of these snow storms and the number of households still without electricity, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) has received approval from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to extend the normal reporting date beyond the required 10 days. SNAP households in any NYS county affected by these storms will now have until April 2, 2018 to report the loss of food due to these storms.

The LDSS-2291 form must be used when there is a request for replacement of food purchased with SNAP benefits. It can be accessed at: [http://otda.state.nyenet/ldss\\_eforms/eforms/2291.pdf](http://otda.state.nyenet/ldss_eforms/eforms/2291.pdf).