



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	20 TA/DC084 Upstate and New York City
Date:	August 19, 2020
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, SNAP Directors, TA Directors
From:	Jeffrey Gaskell, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Replacement of SNAP Benefits Due to Loss of Food Caused by Power Outages
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Questions – SNAP Bureau 518-473-1469 or otda.sm.cees.snap@otda.ny.gov
Attachments:	Attachment 1: LDSS-2291

Section 2

Purpose

The purpose of this GIS is to instruct social services districts (districts) to continue to accept requests for replacement of SNAP benefits for food loss due to the power outages caused two weeks ago by Hurricane Isaias. The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approved OTDA's request to extend the period for which requests for replacements may be reported until close of business on Friday, September 4, 2020. Because after having reported a loss of food and requesting a replacement of SNAP benefits households have an additional 10 days to file a signed and completed affidavit of loss, households have until close of business on Monday, September 14, 2020 to file a signed and completed [LDSS-2291](#) "Request for Replacement of Food Purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits" form or other affidavit of loss.

Reporting/Filing Extension

Under normal request for SNAP replacement rules, a household experiencing a loss of food due to a disaster must report the loss within 10 days of the event that caused the loss, and then must return a signed and completed "Request for Replacement of Food Purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits" form or other signed affidavit of loss within 10 days of the date of the report of loss.

Due to the extraordinary extent and duration of power outages caused by Hurricane Isaias, FNS granted OTDA an extension to the normal 10-day period for reporting loss of food due to disaster. Accordingly, as noted above households that have experienced a loss of food due to Hurricane Isaias need to notify

their district of the food loss by close of business on Friday, September 4, 2020, and households have until close of business on Monday, September 14, 2020 to file the request for replacement form or other affidavit of loss with the district.

Request for Replacement Form

The LDSS-2291 *“Request for Replacement of Food Purchased with SNAP Benefits”* (Rev 7/16) form is available in English/Other language versions for seven languages in addition to English and in four formats for people with visual impairments on the OTDA “forms” webpage. The link to the English/Spanish form is embedded below.

<https://otda.ny.gov/programs/applications/2291.pdf>

As noted above, while the LDSS-2291 meets the requirements of and facilitates the filing of a signed affidavit of loss and request for replacement of SNAP benefits, any written and signed submission testifying to the loss and providing sufficient information for the district to process a replacement of benefits must be accepted. Households requesting replacement cannot be required to use only the LDSS-2291.

Any questions pertaining to this GIS should be directed to the SNAP Policy Bureau at: 518-473-1469 or otda.sm.cees.snap@otda.ny.gov.