

Belit Stockfleth, SNAP and Youth Services
Programs Manager

Authorized Signature

Number: SS-IM-12-005

Issue Date: 01/19/2012

Topic: Food Benefits

Subject: Replacement of benefits due to a disaster – Not a Presidentially declared disaster

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |

Message:

In light of the recent flooding in multiple counties, we want to refresh staff about replacing SNAP benefits for current recipients when there has NOT been a presidentially declared disaster.

In the event of a local disaster, SNAP benefits may be replaced when the value of food purchased with SNAP benefits has been spoiled or destroyed (e.g., due to fire, flood or loss of electricity).

When determining when to replace benefits look at the following when determining if food may be replaced and the amount:

- The filing group must be currently receiving SNAP;
- The request for help must be received within 10 days of the disaster or loss. The department must act on the request within 10 days of receipt;
- Verify the disaster exists: That is, the filing group resides in a power outage area, the national disaster area, flood area, etc.;
- The filing group must provide a detailed list of the spoiled food and the amount paid for that food. Also, ask the filing group where the food was located when it was spoiled (e.g., cupboard, refrigerator or freezer). Use the *Affidavit of Loss of Food Purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits Due to a Disaster* ([DHS 349D](#)) to document this;

- Determine if the amount of food spoiled is a reasonable amount based on the situation;
- Assure the filing group has not received more than one replacement due to a disaster or spoilage within the past six months.

There are very specific criteria around what benefits can be replaced and how to code the system in order to replace those benefits.

Please consult the SNAP manual at [SNAP.G.18](#) or the SNAP Policy Unit at SNAP.Policy@state.or.us if you have questions.

If you have any questions about this information, contact:

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