MEMORANDUM

TO: SNAP State Agencies

FROM: Jessica Shahin, Associate Administrator,
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

DATE: April 21, 2020

The attached is updated guidance to States in implementing Families First
Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, which provides for the issuance of
additional months of emergency allotments (supplements) based on a public
health emergency declaration by the Secretary of Health and Human Services
under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act related to an outbreak of
COVID-19 when a State has also issued an emergency or disaster declaration.

States should submit information regarding the emergency allotment
issuance date(s), and estimated number of impacted households and benefit
amount each month. This information should be submitted to the Food
and Nutrition Service (FNS) Regional SNAP contact no sooner than the
15th of each month for the subsequent month. States must await FNS
acknowledgement before sending the emergency allotment issuance file(s)
to their Electronic Benefits Transfer processor.

Please be advised that the contents of this document do not have the force and
effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document
is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements
under the law or agency policies. Any questions should be directed to
Andrea Gold, Director, Retail Policy and Management Division.

Sincerely,

JESSICA SHAHIN
Digitally signed by
JESSICA SHAHIN
Date: 2020.04.21
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Jessica Shahin
Associate Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Attachment
Section 2302(a)(1) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, allows States to request COVID-19 EA “for households participating in the supplemental nutrition assistance program… to address temporary food needs.” The State must support its request with sufficient data, as determined through FNS guidance. A household’s EA cannot increase the current monthly household SNAP benefit allotment beyond “the applicable maximum monthly allotment for the household size.” Accordingly, SNAP households that already receive the maximum monthly allotment for their household size are not eligible for EA.

States that have already received FNS approval for EA issuance in March and April, or April and May, are approved to continue issuing EA benefits each month. This approval to extend these EAs will remain in place until such a time as the Secretary for Health and Human Services rescinds the public health emergency declaration that was issued on January 27, 2020, under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act or the State-issued emergency or disaster declaration expires.

This approval is contingent upon the State submitting the information below to the FNS Region no sooner than the 15th of each month for the subsequent month and awaiting FNS acknowledgement before sending the Emergency Allotment issuance file(s) to their Electronic Benefits Transfer processor.

Prior to each month of EA issuance, the State shall provide the following information to its FNS Regional SNAP contact(s), who will acknowledge receipt:

State/Territory: California

1. **[Month]** EA Issuance date(s):
   
   For the benefit month of May California will issue Emergency Allotments on June 13th.
   
   (Provide exact dates of planned EA issuance for the month or annotate above if the State will be providing EA benefits in accordance with the State’s regular issuance schedule.)

2. **[Month]** estimate of the number of households and estimated EA amount:
   
   Number of households receiving emergency allotment benefits: 1,151,714 households
   
   Amount of emergency allotment benefits issued for one month: $236,045,748

3. **Confirmation** that one or more of the following conditions exists due to COVID-19. (Check all that apply):
   
   X Residents of the State are confirmed to have contracted COVID-19
   
   X Some or all areas of the State are containment or quarantine zones
   
   X Businesses have closed or significantly reduced their hours
   
   X The State’s residents have experienced economic impacts due to job suspensions or losses
The State’s residents have been directed to practice social distancing
And
The State’s emergency or disaster declaration remains active.

All FNS requirements shall remain the same as listed in the initial State approval.

USDA reserves the right to withdraw or otherwise modify this approval subject to availability of funding.