

Request to Provide Emergency Allotments (Supplements) to SNAP Households

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.

- 1. Type of Request:** Initial
- 2. Primary Citation:** Families First Coronavirus Response Act
- 3. State [specify]:** Hawaii
- 4. Proposed Alternative Procedures:**

The State proposes to provide an emergency allotment to address temporary food needs to households to bring all households up to the maximum benefit due to pandemic related economic conditions for up to 2 months. Contingent upon the availability of funding and ongoing need, USDA may approve additional months of emergency issuance with an extension request from the State.

These households are eligible for temporary emergency allotments because:

- There is a public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and there is a State-wide emergency or disaster declaration (copy attached); and
- Due to Covid-19 [check all that apply]:
 - Residents of the State are confirmed to have contracted Covid-19
 - Some or all areas of the State are containment or quarantine zones
 - Businesses have closed or significantly reduced their hours
 - 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

Issuing Emergency Allotments to Current SNAP Households:

Supplemental emergency allotments would be issued in the following manner:

In March, 2020

- On a single date [specify]: _____
- Over a series of days as follows: _____
- Staggered as follows: _____
- Other [please explain]: see attached

In subsequent months, emergency allotments should be provided in accordance with the State's regular issuance schedule. If a State wants to use a different schedule, explain:
see attached

The State may provide the emergency allotment(s) without contacting the household. While individual notification is not required, States should notify clients consistent with SNAP requirements for mass changes, including notice that emergency allotments will be issued for up to 2 months. Should this schedule change and additional months are approved during the public health emergency, the State will provide a subsequent mass change notice at that time.

Other Requirements: [If applicable, STATE SHOULD ADDRESS ANY OTHER STATE-SPECIFIC NEEDS THEY MAY HAVE.]

All emergency allotments will be delivered on the household's EBT card.

The State's SNAP agency also agrees to complete the FNS-292 on a timely basis in accordance with requirements as well as all other normally recurring SNAP reporting included the FNS 46 and 388 reports, on a timely basis in accordance with requirements.

In addition, The State agency will submit weekly reports to FNS with the following information for the entire State:

- The value of EA issued.
- The average issuance amount per household.
- The number of households issued EA

Justification for Request: Coronavirus COVID-19, as provided by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

5. Affected Caseload:

One month estimates for existing SNAP households under these procedures:

- Number of households receiving emergency allotments benefits: 60,000
- Amount of emergency allotment benefits issued for one month: \$ 30,540,000
- Number of months requested (2 month limit) 2

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

6. Anticipated Implementation Date: see attached

7. Signature and Title of Requesting State Agency Official:

Scott Nakasone

Signature

Scott Nakasone, Assistant Division Administrator

Print Name and Title

8. Date of Request: April 9, 2020

Hawaii responses to Emergency Allotment Waiver:

4. Beginning in May 2020, Hawaii proposes to issue the March 2020 emergency allotments to supplement households March benefits, on May 11, 2020.

On May 18, 2020, Hawaii proposes to issue emergency allotments for households to supplement their April benefits.

On May 22, 2020, Hawaii proposes to issue emergency allotments for households that did not receive their emergency allotment supplement on either the May 11, or May 18, 2020 issuance dates, for both the March and April benefits.

On June 8, 2020, Hawaii proposes to issue final emergency allotments for households that did not receive their March and/or April emergency allotment supplement on either the May 11, May 18, or May 22, 2020 issuance dates.

For Reference: Regular SNAP benefits for the months of May and June are available based on the following schedule:

- For those that receive both cash and SNAP benefits (and have direct deposit), SNAP benefits are available on the 1st of the month.

For SNAP Only households:

- For cases that begin with the letters A-I, SNAP benefits are available the 3rd of the month.
- For cases that begin with the letters J-Z, SNAP benefits are available the 5th of the month.

5. The estimation we used was based on the number of cases for March that did not receive the maximum SNAP benefit for their household size. The estimated emergency allotment benefits amount was calculated based on the following formula:

((Cases for March x (average SNAP household size maximum – average SNAP benefit amount issued to average SNAP household size))

((60,000 x (avg SNAP HH of 3 maximum SNAP benefit \$936 – average SNAP benefit issued to HH of 3 \$427))

6. See number 4