October

Food and
Nutrition Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

United States Department of Agriculture

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 09:08:24 -04'00'

Jessica Shahin
Associate Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Attachment

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United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Month-To-Month Contingent Approval to Continue Issuing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Emergency Allotments (EA) Benefits under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020

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: INDIANA

1. December 2020 EA Issuance date(s):

   _____

   Will occur on the regular staggered issuance date for all on-going SNAP households (5th-23rd odd days only). For newly authorized SNAP households, the EA will be issued on the next day after authorization. The State recognizes that this EA issuance for the month of December cannot be released to the EBT vendor until December 1, 2020 or after and that the public health emergency declaration remains in effect through at least December 1st as well.

   (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. December 2020 estimate of the number of households and estimated EA amount:
   Number of households receiving emergency allotment benefits: 191,555
   Amount of emergency allotment benefits issued for one month: $ 33,859,399

3. **Confirmation** that one or more of the following conditions exists 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

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.

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