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Subject: COVID-19: VI Emergency Allotments Approval
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 2:35:22 PM
Attachments: [VI EA Wavier Request 4-7-2020.pdf](#)
[COVID-19 VI Emergency Allotments Approval.msg](#)

NERO Team,

Please consider this FNS' approval of Virgin Islands attached request to issue Emergency Allotments (EA) to all ongoing SNAP households in the Territory of Virgin Islands.

This approval will allow the territory to issue EA to ongoing SNAP households for April and May 2020, increasing their current monthly allotment up to the maximum monthly allotment for a household of that size. The approval is for two months and any extension beyond that would require additional FNS approval. Ongoing SNAP households that already receive the maximum monthly allotment for their household size are not eligible for EA. All EA will be delivered on ongoing SNAP households' EBT cards.

Please ask Virgin Islands to confirm receipt and REPLY ALL, upon notice of Virgin Islands confirmation of receipt. We would also ask Virgin Islands to alert any contacts they may have in the retailer community of the emergency issuance and its timing, so stores can stock up in preparation.

Thanks, and please let us know if you have any questions.

Andrea

Andrea Gold-O'Connor
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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]:**
- 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]:
 - 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
 - x 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 April 2020: VI will issue supplement on April 11, 2020 to provide households with additional benefits over the Easter Holiday.

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:

The VI's decision to use a different schedule of May 16, 2020 is based upon the following:

1. VI's regular issuance schedule is the first of the month for all households and not staggered.
2. Issuing the supplement allotment two weeks later will control the release of approximately 1.1 million additional dollars and minimize the potential negative impact on the food supply system.

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: 6,126
- Amount of emergency allotment benefits issued for one month: \$ 1,151,039.00
- Number of months requested (2-month limit) April & May

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

6. Anticipated Implementation Date: Supplemental allotments will be issued April 11, 2020 and May 16, 2020

7. Signature and Title of Requesting State Agency Official:



for

Natalie Bailey

Title: Administrator

Email for Transmittal of responses: natalie.bailey@dhs.vi.gov

8. Date of Request: April 6, 2020

9. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone): Emmanueline Archer, emmanueline.archer@dhs.vi.gov (340) 774-4309 ext. 4309

10. Regional Office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):