The Research Packet For

THE SNAP TASK FORCE

Meeting of November 2018

Prepared by the staff of Food Bank For New York City
39 Broadway, 10th Fl.
New York NY 10006
Tel: 212.566.7855
Fax: 212.566.1463
www.foodbanknyc.org
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) TASK FORCE

Contents

I. United States Department of Agriculture ................................................................. 3
   USDA Approved Additional Food Options to Florida SNAP Participants Impacted by Hurricane Michael: ................................................................. 3
   USDA Provides 12 Hurricane-Hit Florida Counties with Additional SNAP Food Options .......... 3
   Small and Non-Traditional Food Retailers Largely Cost Competitive in WIC Program ............ 4

II. New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance ................................ 5
   Revised –Updated SNAP Standards for October 2018 LDSS-5006 Notice to All Recipients: ...... 5
   HEAP Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement (HERR) Closing Date, and extension of the Heating Equipment Clean and Tune (C&T) component: .................................................. 6
   SNAP August 2018 Participation: .................................................................................. 6

III. New York City Human Resources Administration .................................................. 8
   POLICY BULLETIN #18-68-ELI - TREATMENT OF HURRICANE FLORENCE EVACUEES APPLYING FOR CASH ASSISTANCE (CA), SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) BENEFITS AND MEDICAID, October 17, 2018 .......................................................... 8
   POLICY BULLETIN #18-67-ELI – SNAP Categorical Eligibility Desk Guide, October 10, 2018 ...... 8
   POLICY BULLETIN #18-66-OPEm – New posters available on eDocs, October 3, 2018 .............. 8

IV. Reports, News and Notable Items ................................................................. 10
   SNAP Helps Almost 1.4 Million Low-Income Veterans, Including Thousands in Every State – CBPP, November 8, 2018 .............................................................................................................. 10
   Data Analysis Reveals that Millions of Households with Seniors Rely on SNAP to Stave Off Hunger — FRAC, October 31, 2018 .................................................................................................. 10
   Rural Americans Are Now The Largest Slice Of Federal Food Aid Recipients , October 29, 2018 ................................................................................................................................. 10
   New Senior SNAP Participation Interactive Map Released by AARP & FRAC ................. 11
   CBPP Blog: More Evidence That Work Requirements Don’t Work, October 19, 2018 ........... 11

Appendix A: SNAP Categorical Eligibility Desk Guide .............................................. 12
I. United States Department of Agriculture

USDA Approved Additional Food Options to Florida SNAP Participants Impacted by Hurricane Michael:


In the aftermath of Hurricane Michael, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved a temporary waiver that will allow participants in the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in Florida to buy hot foods with their benefits through October 31, 2018.

Under normal circumstances hot foods cannot be purchased using SNAP benefits. Hot foods include items sold at authorized SNAP retailers that are hot at the point of sale. The waiver addresses the inability of those SNAP participants affected by the disaster to prepare food at home. SNAP authorized retailers may need 24-36 hours to be ready to accept SNAP benefits for hot foods due to programming changes that may be required at their stores.

USDA Provides 12 Hurricane-Hit Florida Counties with Additional SNAP Food Options


As part of a continuing effort to provide relief from the effects of Hurricane Michael, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that households in 12 Florida counties that may not normally be eligible for nutrition assistance under regular Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) rules may temporarily qualify for Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) benefits. Households may be eligible if they have qualifying disaster-related expenses and meet D-SNAP income limits.

The timing and conditions of D-SNAP vary with the circumstances of each disaster, but the program always begins after access to retailers has been restored and families are able to purchase food to prepare at home. Before operating D-SNAP in an approved county, the state must ensure that conditions related to safety and readiness are in place.

If a household in the affected area qualifies for D-SNAP, they could receive one month of benefits to meet their food needs as they settle back home following the disaster. Households in the approved areas that already receive SNAP benefits will automatically receive disaster
supplements, up to the maximum allotment for their household size, and do not need to apply for D-SNAP.

Small and Non-Traditional Food Retailers Largely Cost Competitive in WIC Program


Due to differences in food prices and other factors varying across the State agencies that administer WIC, the average cost of providing these supplemental foods varies substantially: the average monthly food cost per person during fiscal 2017 ranged from $27.08 in Texas to $50.94 in New York. Examining ways to contain food costs, including the prices charged by the stores authorized to redeem WIC benefits, provides information to help ensure the efficient use of Federal funds.

Many States authorize a mix of store types to redeem WIC benefits to promote adequate participant access to the benefits. The tradeoff is that smaller and nontraditional food stores may charge relatively higher prices for WIC-approved foods for economic reasons, potentially increasing program costs.

The researchers found that, surprisingly, there was only a modest difference in the cost of a set of foods between supercenters and other store types in many cases. The cost of the fully breastfeeding woman’s and child’s monthly food baskets at supermarkets/grocery stores and most small and nontraditional food retailers was within plus or minus $6 of the cost at supercenters in both States, where the average cost of these food baskets ranged from $33.40 to $48.58. This was due in part to relatively high prices charged by some supercenters for milk counterbalancing other lower priced items.
II. New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

GENERAL INFORMATIONAL SYSTEM 18TA/DC032: 2018-2019 HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FORMS ORDERING AND AVAILABILITY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018


The purpose of this GIS is to inform social services districts (districts) that 12 forms used to administer the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) have been revised for the 2018-2019 program year, and that HEAP forms are available for electronic download and ordering.

The following HEAP forms were revised for the 2018-2019 program year:

- HEAP Emergency Benefit Budget Worksheet (LDSS-3594B, Rev 7/18)
- HEAP 3 Month Method Self-Employment Worksheet (LDSS-3785, Rev 5/18)
- HEAP Low Income Worksheet (LDSS-3829, Rev 5/18)
- HEAP Cooling Assistance Request for Benefit (LDSS-4992, Rev 5/18)
- HEAP Cooling Assistance Notice of Eligibility Decision (LDSS-4993, Rev 5/18)
- HEAP 12 Month Method Self-Employment Income Tax Calculation Worksheet (LDSS-4997, Rev 5/18)
- HEAP Guarantee of Payment Letter (LDSS-5000, Rev 5/18)
- HEAP 3 Month Method Rental Income Calculation Worksheet (LDSS-5001, Rev 5/18)
- HEAP Cooling Assistance Services Invoice (LDSS-5044, Rev 7/18)
- HEAP Heating Equipment Clean and Tune Services Invoice (LDSS-5083, Rev 5/18)

Revised – Updated SNAP Standards for October 2018 LDSS-5006 Notice to All Recipients:


New signage is now available required for posting detailing changes to deductions. These changes are a result of federally-required changes to the following standards and deductions.

- The Standard Deduction for households of one to three persons will increase by $4, from $160 to $164.
• The Standard Deduction for households of four persons will increase by $4, from $170 to $174.
• The Standard Deduction for households of five persons will increase by $5, from $199 to $204.
• The Standard Deduction for households of six or more persons will increase by $6, from $228 to $234.
• The SNAP Maximum Excess Shelter Deduction will increase by $17, from $535 to $552.

HEAP Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement (HERR) Closing Date, and extension of the Heating Equipment Clean and Tune (C&T) component:

The purpose of this GIS message is to inform social services districts (districts) that Friday, November 2, 2018 is the closing date for the 2017-2018 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement (HERR) component, and the extension of the 2017-2018 HEAP Heating Equipment Clean and Tune (C&T) component.

SNAP August 2018 Participation:

Table 16
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Households, Persons and Value of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits by Local District
August 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local District</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Temporary Assistance</th>
<th>Non-Temporary Assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Households</td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>SNAP Benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York State</td>
<td>1,547,379</td>
<td>2,751,032</td>
<td>$378,145,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York City</td>
<td>921,200</td>
<td>1,064,822</td>
<td>233,710,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of State</td>
<td>528,119</td>
<td>1,146,490</td>
<td>144,434,252</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SNAP Task Force Meeting of October 18, 2018
Contents of this document are the property of Food Bank For New York City and cannot be copied in any way, shape or form without permission from its creator.
Notice of Emergency Adoption and Proposed Rule Making: Updated Standard Utility Allowance for the SNAP:


The following chart sets forth the standard utility allowance categories; the past standard utility allowances (“Past SUA”) that were in effect for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2018, from October 1, 2017 through September 31, 2018; and the new standard utility allowances (“New SUA”) that are in effect for FFY 2019, effective October 1, 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>New York City</th>
<th></th>
<th>Nassau / Suffolk Counties</th>
<th></th>
<th>Rest of State</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Past SUA</td>
<td>New SUA</td>
<td>Past SUA</td>
<td>New SUA</td>
<td>Past SUA</td>
<td>New SUA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heating/Air Conditioning SUA</td>
<td>$791</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>$738</td>
<td>$744</td>
<td>$654</td>
<td>$661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Utility SUA</td>
<td>$313</td>
<td>$316</td>
<td>$289</td>
<td>$292</td>
<td>$265</td>
<td>$268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone SUA</td>
<td>Past SUA: $30 (for all Counties) (Unchanged for all Counties)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
III. New York City Human Resources Administration

POLICY BULLETIN #18-68-ELI - TREATMENT OF HURRICANE FLORENCE EVACUEES APPLYING FOR CASH ASSISTANCE (CA), SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) BENEFITS AND MEDICAID, October 17, 2018

Guidance provided for evacuees of Hurricane Florence.

Regular SNAP eligibility and application processing rules apply to Hurricane Florence affected applicants.

However, if the applicant or family resides with another household, the evacuee individual or family may be treated as a separate SNAP household even if the households purchase and prepare food together.

If a Hurricane Florence applicant presents with no documentation and states that they do not have access to the documents, staff should use the applicant’s self declarations and collateral sources (e.g. attestations from family and friends) to satisfy the documentation requirements. The staff should also use the SSN Validation to assist in establishing the applicant’s identity.

Staff should not delay providing these applicants with ongoing benefits pending actual verification/documentation of application requirements because of a delay or inability of the applicant to provide documents.

POLICY BULLETIN #18-67-ELI – SNAP Categorical Eligibility Desk Guide, October 10, 2018

The purpose of this policy bulletin is to inform staff of the criteria to be categorically eligible to receive SNAP benefits. See Appendix A for the new desk guide.

POLICY BULLETIN #18-66-OPEm – New posters available on eDocs, October 3, 2018

Among the new posters shared in this bulletin is “SNAP Conferences” (POST-214), a new poster that promotes requesting a conference with a SNAP supervisor to review decisions made concerning an applicant’s/participant’s SNAP benefits or case. Images below:
What do you do if you think our decision is wrong, or if you do not understand our decision?

Talk to one of our SNAP supervisors right away. You can have a Conference with a supervisor to review a decision you think is wrong or do not understand. If you still disagree or do not understand, you have the right to a Fair Hearing. A Conference could be the fastest way to get help and fix any problems with your SNAP case or benefits. You can ask for one even if you have already asked for a Fair Hearing.

A CONFERENCE IS NOT A FAIR HEARING. If you are told that your case is being closed, or that the SNAP benefits you are getting will stop or decrease, and the problem is not settled with a Conference, you must ask for a Fair Hearing to keep getting benefits.
IV. Reports, News and Notable Items

SNAP Helps Almost 1.4 Million Low-Income Veterans, Including Thousands in Every State – CBPP, November 8, 2018

https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/snap-helps-almost-14-million-low-income-veterans-including-thousands-in

Almost 1.4 million veterans live in households that participate in SNAP (formerly food stamps), CBPP analysis of data from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey finds.[1] In every state, thousands of low-income veterans use SNAP to help put food on the table. Florida has the largest number of veterans participating in SNAP (120,000), followed by California and Texas (97,000 apiece). In Oregon, Rhode Island, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C., at least 10 percent of veterans live in households that received SNAP in the last year.

NYS Data: 9% of all Veterans participate in SNAP (64,000)

Data Analysis Reveals that Millions of Households with Seniors Rely on SNAP to Stave Off Hunger — FRAC, October 31, 2018


One in 10 households with seniors (age 60+) participated in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), on average each year between 2012–2016. This is according to U.S. Census Bureau data analyzed in interactive tools released by the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC), in collaboration with AARP Foundation.

Rural Americans Are Now The Largest Slice Of Federal Food Aid Recipients, October 29, 2018


According to USDA, SNAP participation is highest among households in rural areas and small towns under 2,500 people, and has been since 2012. FRAC’s analysis of the USDA data found that 16 percent of rural households participate in SNAP versus 13 percent of urban area households.
New Senior SNAP Participation Interactive Map Released by AARP & FRAC

This interactive map, produced in collaboration with the AARP Foundation, shows the share of all households with seniors (60+) that participate in SNAP in each county. Each county within a state is grouped into one of three categories: Metro, Small Town, and Rural.

CBPP Blog: More Evidence That Work Requirements Don’t Work, October 19, 2018
https://www.cbpp.org/blog/more-evidence-that-work-requirements-dont-work

Despite their important roles, recent federal and state proposals and policies would take SNAP and Medicaid away from those who don’t meet a rigid work requirement. These policies will likely cause hardship for many and won’t likely boost work over the long term, as panelists at a Hamilton Project event agreed this week.

- SNAP and Medicaid beneficiaries are mostly working; among those not currently working, many are between jobs or aren’t working due to health issues or caretaking responsibilities.
- Work requirements are hard to administer and confusing for beneficiaries to navigate.
- There’s little evidence that work requirements increase work over the long term — and much evidence that they increase hardship for many.
- There are better ways to boost participants’ economic security than taking away their food assistance or health coverage.
### Appendix A: SNAP Categorical Eligibility Desk Guide

**SNAP Household with Out of Pocket Dependent Care Costs**

(These are households that do not have any aged or disabled members and do not have any individuals who are sanctioned or disqualified.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Maximum Gross Monthly Income 200% of Poverty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$2,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$2,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$3,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$4,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$4,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$5,623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$6,343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$7,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each Add'l Member</td>
<td>+ $720</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SNAP Household with Expanded Categorical Eligibility**

ABEL Categorical Eligibility Indicator (CE): **N**: Categorically Eligible – Not all TA/SSI

**SNAP Household with Out of Pocket Dependent Care Costs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Maximum Gross Monthly Income 200% of Poverty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$1,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$1,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$2,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$2,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$3,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$3,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$4,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$4,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each Add'l Member</td>
<td>$468</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SNAP Household with Sanctioned Member are NOT Categorically Eligible**

ABEL Categorical Eligibility Indicator (CE): **S**: Sanctioned for SNAP – Not Categorically Eligible

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Size</th>
<th>Monthly Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$1,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$2,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$2,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$3,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$3,678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$4,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$4,758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$5,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each Add'l Member</td>
<td>$540</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits
Categorical Eligibility Desk-Aid

Categorically Eligible Households:

If SNAP Household includes All TA and/or SSI Members then:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SNAP Household is not subject to:</th>
<th>The Household is Categorically Eligible</th>
<th>ABEL Categorical Eligibility Indicator (CE):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>130% Gross Income Test (GIT)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Y: Categorically Eligible – All TA/SSI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100% Net Income Test (NIT)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Test</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SNAP Household with Aged (60 or Older) and/or Disabled Member

SNAP household must pass:

- 200% GIT (effective 10/1/18)

\[
\begin{array}{|c|c|}
\hline
\text{Family Size} & \text{Monthly Income} \\
\hline
1 & $2,023 \\
2 & $2,743 \\
3 & $3,463 \\
4 & $4,183 \\
5 & $4,903 \\
6 & $5,623 \\
7 & $6,343 \\
8 & $7,063 \\
\hline
\text{Each Add'l Member} & \text{\$720} \\
\hline
\end{array}
\]

OR if the household’s income is greater than 200%

- 100% Net Income Test (NIT); and
- Resource Test ($3,500)

\[
\begin{array}{|c|c|}
\hline
\text{ABEL Categorical Eligibility Indicator (CE):} & A: A/D – Not CE Eligible \\
& (Aged/Disabled – Not Categorically Eligible – System Generated) \\
\hline
\end{array}
\]