



Food and Nutrition
Service

August 28, 2020

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

Alexis Fernandez
Chief
CalFresh and Nutrition Branch
California Department of Social Services
744 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Ms. Fernandez:

This is in response to your request of August 25, 2020, to the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), on behalf of the California Department of Social Services (DSS), to waive the 10-day reporting requirement under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 274.6(a), for replacement of food purchased with SNAP benefits that was lost as a result of power outages and the Moc fire that began on August 20, 2020. The waiver request applies to Mariposa and Tuolumne counties.

SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 274.6(a)(3) require that replacement issuances shall be provided only if a household timely reports a loss of food purchased with SNAP benefits orally or in writing to the State. To be considered timely, the report must be made to the State agency within 10 days of the date the food purchased with SNAP benefits is destroyed in a household misfortune.

DSS is requesting a waiver of the 10-day reporting requirement, so that impacted households will have until September 21, 2020, to report SNAP food loss and request replacement benefits. On August 14, 2020, extreme heat struck California, causing record breaking temperatures and red flag warnings. On August 18, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency in response to the power outages and wildfires. On August 20, 2020, the Moc fire began to burn due to dry conditions, extreme heat and lightning strikes. DSS noted that many households have been unable to contact the county offices to request replacements due to the ongoing wildfires, evacuations, and other hardships.

The waiver will allow the State to provide impacted households in the affected counties additional time to report their food loss. The State agency estimated the active SNAP household population affected as approximately 4,977, and the estimated cost at \$1,448,189.

Approval

FNS is granting approval of this waiver for the State of California to allow impacted households in the above counties sufficient time to report their loss of food. Replacements will be authorized for the amount of the loss, not to exceed the monthly allotment for the household. The waiver will be in effect through September 21, 2020. Reports that are made by households to the State by September 21, 2020, will be considered timely.

Ms. Fernandez
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Authority

This waiver is approved under the authority of 7 CFR 272.3(c)(1)(ii), which allows FNS to approve waivers that result in a more efficient and effective administration of the Program. Actual numbers regarding replacement values must be reported on the FNS-46 form in the Food Programs Reporting System within 90 days after issuance of the replacement benefits.

If you have any questions regarding this waiver or its implementation, please reach out to your Regional SNAP contacts.

Sincerely,

SHELLY PIERCE

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PIERCE
Date: 2020.08.28 16:24:51
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Shelly Pierce
Acting Director
Retailer Policy and Management Division