



Food and Nutrition
Service

October 6, 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 October 5, 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 Zogg Fire that began on September 27, 2020. The waiver request applies to Shasta County.

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 October 26, 2020, to report SNAP food loss and request replacement benefits. On September 27, 2020, the Zogg Fire began burning in Shasta County due to the continued heatwave, dry vegetation and strong winds. On September 28, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency in Shasta County. DSS noted that there are mandatory evacuations to households in the impacted area of Shasta County. DSS also noted that many households face hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 15,058, and the estimated cost at \$34,286.

Ms. Fernandez
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Approval

FNS is granting approval of this waiver for the State of California to allow impacted households in Shasta County 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 October 26, 2020. Reports that are made by households to the State by October 26, 2020, will be considered timely.

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: 2020.10.06 13:36:28
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Shelly Pierce
Acting Director
Retailer Policy and Management Division