

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



# HURRICANE KATRINA INFORMATION

**September 14, 2005**

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-55-05

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS  
ALL QUALITY CONTROL COORDINATORS

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☒ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☐ Initiated by CDSS

**SUBJECT: THE NATIONAL ENHANCED POLICY FOR EVACUEES**

The purpose of this notice is to provide the counties with information on the National Enhanced Policy for Evacuees. The Food Stamp Program is implementing a new, one-month policy for certifying evacuees who have left Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi because of Hurricane Katrina. This policy applies for applications made in September or October, 2005. The policy provides for a one-month maximum food stamp benefit for any evacuee both public assistance (PA) and non-assistance (NA) households. Eligibility is based simply on evacuee status as provided below:

**Applicability** - This policy applies to a household applying for Food Stamp benefits that meets all four of the following requirements:

- The household lived in a county or parish in Alabama, Louisiana, or Mississippi on August 29, 2005; and
- President Bush declared the applicant's county or parish to be a disaster area; and
- The household has moved to a state other than the state the household was living in on August 29, 2005. (This policy does not apply to a household that did not move (or moved within the state) affected by Katrina.); and
- The household applies for food stamp benefits by October 31, 2005.

**Allotment**

- The household will receive the maximum allotment for its household size.
- The county will **not** prorate the allotment.
- One monthly allotment may be issued either for September or October, 2005 depending on the month of application.

**Household size**

- The county will request information regarding household size and use that information to calculate the allotment.

- The county will treat the household as a separate household, even if the household purchases and prepares meals with others.

**Eligibility** – There are no income or resource eligibility tests. There are no other non-financial tests. All evacuee households, both PA and NA, are considered homeless and, therefore, are change reporting households.

**Deductions** – The County will not request information regarding deductible expenses because an entitled household will receive the maximum allotment for its household size.

**Verification** – The County will verify every applicant's identity to the extent possible. A number issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or the debit card issued by FEMA is sufficient to verify identity. Other documentation can include collateral contacts or the applicant's self-declaration under penalty of perjury. The County must also verify residence in the area affected by Hurricane Katrina. If no verification is available, a sworn statement under penalty of perjury is acceptable.

**Quality Control** – These cases are not subject to quality control reviews.

### **Cases Already Approved or Denied in September**

For cases already approved, counties must supplement the household up to the maximum benefit amount for household size.

For cases denied in September, every attempt needs to be made to contact the household for purposes of providing a one month maximum allotment based on these rules.

### **Certification for Evacuee Households**

The process for certifying Hurricane Katrina evacuee households is as follows:

- In the first month of the certification period, the household is entitled to one full month of maximum allotment for their household size to be processed within 24 hours of application.
- If an application is taken in September, a full month's worth of benefits must be issued for the month, regardless of the date of application based on rules provided in this letter. The same is applicable if the evacuee household applies in October.
- A state developed brief application (TEMP 2224) along with an instruction sheet is attached as a guide for processing the first maximum allotment for the first month of the four month certification period allowed for evacuee households.
- Counties may accept the regular food stamp application forms at the same time the TEMP 2224 is received. The purpose of providing regular food stamp

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application forms at the same time is to begin the process for certification of 3 additional months of expedited services as stated in ACIN I-53-05.

- The last certification month for all evacuee households is December 31, 2005.

### **FEMA Referrals**

Counties are encouraged to refer Hurricane Katrina evacuee households to FEMA by having them call 1-800-621-FEMA or through their website at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). FEMA can provide households with further assistance and benefits that the Food Stamp Program cannot provide.

### **Translations and Camera-Ready Copies**

For camera-ready copies in English of the TEMP 2224 and instructions forms, please call the Forms Management Unit at (916) 657-1893. You can obtain these forms online from the California Department of Social Services' (CDSS) web page at: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov>. Translated materials are posted on an ongoing basis as soon as they are completed. For questions on translated materials, please call Language Services at (916) 445-6778.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter, please call Rosie Avena, Food Stamp Bureau, at (916) 654-1514.

Sincerely,

CHARR LEE METSKER  
Deputy Director  
Welfare-to-Work Division

Attachments