

**Policy Clarifications - SNAP
PFS16405580**

Submitted: 11/01/12

Agency: CAOs

Citations: 580.52, 7 CFR 274.6(a)

Subject: Hurricane Sandy and Replacement of SNAP benefits for food destroyed in a household misfortune or disaster

What should County Assistance Offices do for recipients asking for a SNAP benefit replacement due to Hurricane Sandy?

Response By: Division of Federal Programs

Date: 10/31/12

CAOs should follow the guidance in SNAP Handbook 580.52. Under SNAP Handbook section 580.52, recipients who report a loss of food and request replacement benefits are authorized for the amount of the loss reported based on what the recipient has declared but not to exceed their normal month's benefit. There is no requirement to check EBT balances. Confirm with the client that they live in the affected area before issuing benefits. The CAO must verify the household misfortune (or disaster) through a collateral contact, documentation from a community agency, or a home visit. The lost food must have been purchased with SNAP benefits.

The client is required to sign an affidavit attesting to the reason for the loss and the amount of the requested replacement (**see attached Affidavit**). The affidavit may be mailed to the recipient. Use reason code 168 to replace food destroyed in a [D1852Affidavit \(2\) doc.doc](#) household misfortune/disaster. Recipients have 10 days to request food replacement from a household misfortune (or declared disaster). The report may be made by phone or in writing.

Example: A recipient household states they were without power due to flooding, storms, power outage etc.; causing a loss of \$100 worth of food due to spoilage. The household's June allotment is \$275. Notate the conversation in the narrative and forward the affidavit to the recipient for signature. The recipient signs an affidavit to request replacement of \$100 in FS benefits because of food lost due to a power outage in the area. The worker does a one-time issuance for \$100, using reason code 168.

NOTE: There is no limit to the number of replacements for food lost because of a household misfortune or disaster. However, SNAP benefit replacement is only available **once** per disaster or misfortune. The household must experience separate disasters or misfortunes to be issued more than one replacement and SNAP Handbook 580.52 must be followed.