

Policy Clarification
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
(SNAP) – All
PFS-21892-580

Submitted: August 22, 2024

Agency: CAOs

Citations: 580.52, 7 CFR 274.6 (a)

Subject: Time Frame for Replacement of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits for Food Destroyed in Tropical Storm Debby

Question: What should County Assistance Offices (CAOs) in Lycoming, Potter, and Tioga do for recipients who call asking for a SNAP benefit replacement due to Tropical Storm Debby after the 10-day timeframe?

Response By: Division of Federal Programs

Date: 08/23/2024

Due to the impact of Tropical Storm Debby, the Food and Nutrition Service has provided a waiver for the timely reporting requirement for household replacements of SNAP benefits. Recipients will have until **September 9, 2024**, to request food replacement due to effects of Tropical Storm Debby. This extension for timely reporting food loss and SNAP benefit replacement is for Tropical Storm Debby only and limited to the following counties: Lycoming, Potter, and Tioga. All other household misfortunes or disasters not relating to Tropical Storm Debby will need to follow the standard 10-day reporting requirement.

CAOs in these three counties 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 Electronic Benefit Transfer 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. The affidavit may be mailed to the recipient. Use reason code 168 to replace food destroyed in a disaster.