

**GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**  
**DIVISION: Center for Employment & Economic Supports**

April 24, 2012

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**TO:** Commissioners, TA Directors, FS Directors

**FROM:** Phyllis Morris, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Center for Employment and Economic Supports

**SUBJECT:** Loss of Food – Crisis Situations

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

**CONTACT PERSON:** Food Stamp Bureau at 1-800-343-8859, extension 3-1469; TA Bureau at 1-800-343-8859, extension 4-9344

Due to the recent snowstorms which have affected large parts of Southwestern New York, we are issuing this GIS to clarify the Temporary Assistance (TA) and Food Stamp (FS) policies that local districts must have in place to deal with loss of food due to crisis situations, including loss of electricity.

### **Food Stamps**

Because individuals may experience food loss due to the effects of a storm from damage and/or resulting power outages, this GIS also serves to:

Reinforce and clarify the temporary assistance and food stamp policies that local districts must have in place to deal with loss of food in emergencies, and

Provide local districts with the intranet link to the updated 8/03 version of the LDSS-2291: "Request for Replacement of Food Purchased with Food Stamp Benefits." This form must be used when there is a request for replacement of food purchased with food stamp benefits. It can be accessed at:

[http://otda.state.nyenet/ldss\\_eforms/eforms/2291.pdf](http://otda.state.nyenet/ldss_eforms/eforms/2291.pdf)

Food Stamp Source Book Section 11 provides direction on replacement of food purchased with food stamp (FS) benefits. An issuance of FS benefits to replace food which was purchased with FS benefits, but subsequently destroyed in a household misfortune must be made, provided that:

- a. The household reports the loss within 10 days of the date of the misfortune; and
- b. The household returns a signed and completed form LDSS-2291 "Request for Replacement of Food Purchased with Food Stamp Benefits" within 10 days of the date of

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the report of loss. If the 10th day falls on a weekend or holiday, a statement received the day after the weekend or holiday is acceptable.

### **Temporary Assistance**

Local districts can provide Emergency Temporary Assistance to those individuals and families whose food has spoiled due to the power outage, who are not eligible for Food Stamps and who are in an immediate need situation. The amount is normally a prorated portion (for the number of days of need) of the non-shelter portion of the household's standard of need (Basic, HEA and SHEA). The household must meet all other eligibility factors as specified in the Temporary Assistance Source Book (chapter 10, section I for ESNA or chapter 11, section C for EAF.) Local districts that anticipate mass requests for such assistance may use the LDSS-880 "Register of Application and Authorization for Emergency Assistance." Persons unable to prepare food at home may also be eligible for a prorated portion of the restaurant allowance granted in accordance with 18 NYCRR Parts 352.7(c). For more information on meeting emergency needs see 02 ADM-02 "Meeting the Emergency /Immediate Needs of Temporary Assistance (TA) Applicants/Recipients."