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Subject: COVID-19: OH Emergency Allotments Approval
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 3:48:23 PM
Attachments: Ohio Revised Emergency Allotment Request- second revision (003).docx

MWRO Team,

Please consider this FNS' approval of Ohio's attached request to issue Emergency Allotments (EA) to all ongoing SNAP households in the State of Ohio.

This approval will allow the State to issue EA to ongoing SNAP households for March and April 2020, increasing their current monthly allotment up to the maximum monthly allotment for a household of that size. Ongoing SNAP households that already receive the maximum monthly allotment for their household size are not eligible for EA. All EA will be delivered on ongoing SNAP households' EBT cards.

Please ask the State to confirm receipt and REPLY ALL, upon notice of the State's confirmation of receipt. We would also ask the State to alert any contacts they may have in the retailer community of the emergency issuance and its timing, so stores can stock up in preparation.

Thanks, and please let us know if you have any questions.

Andrea

Andrea Gold-O'Connor
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SNAP, Retailer and Issuance Policy
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Request to Provide Emergency Allotments (Supplements) to SNAP Households

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

1. **Type of Request:** Initial

2. **Primary Citation:** Families First Coronavirus Response Act

3. **State [specify]:** Ohio

4. **Proposed Alternative Procedures:**

The State proposes to provide an emergency allotment to address temporary food needs to households to bring all households up to the maximum benefit due to pandemic related economic conditions for up to 2 months. Contingent upon the availability of funding and ongoing need, USDA may approve additional months of emergency issuance with an extension request from the State.

These households are eligible for temporary emergency allotments because:

- There is a public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and there is a **State-wide emergency or disaster declaration (copy attached)**; and
- Due to Covid-19 [check all that apply]:
 - Residents of the State are confirmed to have contracted Covid-19
 - Some or all areas of the State are containment or quarantine zones *Ohio is under a statewide stay-at-home order.*
 - Businesses have closed or significantly reduced their hours
 - The State's residents have experienced economic impacts due to job suspensions or losses
 - The State's residents have been directed to practice social distancing

Issuing Emergency Allotments to Current SNAP Households:

Supplemental emergency allotments would be issued in the following manner:

In March, 2020

On a single date [specify]: The benefit file would be sent within a few days of receiving the approval. The planned date is 3/28/20 and the benefits would be available the same day the file is processed.

Over a series of days as follows:

Staggered as follows:

Other [please explain]:

In subsequent months, emergency allotments should be provided in accordance with the State's regular issuance schedule. If a State wants to use a different schedule, explain:

Response: The April supplement benefit file will be sent to our EBT vendor on 3/31/20. The supplements will be added to recipients accounts with an availability date that is the household's normal benefit availability date. For example, if the household's ongoing monthly benefit is available on the 4th of the month, their supplement will be available on the 4th. If another household's ongoing monthly benefit is available on the 10th of the month, their supplement will be available on the 10th.

The State may provide the emergency allotment(s) without contacting the household. While individual notification is not required, States should notify clients consistent with SNAP requirements for mass changes, including notice that emergency allotments will be issued for up to 2 months. Should this schedule change and additional months are approved during the public health emergency, the State will provide a subsequent mass change notice at that time.

- 1. Other Requirements:** [If applicable, STATE SHOULD ADDRESS ANY OTHER STATE-SPECIFIC NEEDS THEY MAY HAVE.] Response: None

All emergency allotments will be delivered on the household's EBT card.

The State's SNAP agency also agrees to complete the FNS-292 on a timely basis in accordance with requirements as well as all other normally recurring SNAP reporting included the FNS 46 and 388 reports, on a timely basis in accordance with requirements.

In addition, The State agency will submit weekly reports to FNS with the following information for the entire State:

- The value of EA issued.
- The average issuance amount per household.
- The number of households issued EA

Justification for Request: Coronavirus COVID-19, as provided by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

5. Affected Caseload:

One month estimates for existing SNAP households under these procedures:

- Number of households receiving emergency allotments benefits: 440,725
- Amount of emergency allotment benefits issued for one month: \$ 75,518,131
- Number of months requested (2 month limit) 2

USDA reserves the right to withdraw or otherwise modify this approval subject to availability of funding

6. Anticipated Implementation Date: 3/28/20

7. Signature and Title of Requesting State Agency Official:

Betsy Suver

Signature

Betsy Suver

Bureau Chief, SNAP and Cash Assistance Policy and Technical Assistance

Office of Family Assistance, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Print Name and Title

8. Date of Request: 3/25/20