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Subject: COVID-19: WI Emergency Allotments Approval
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 4:14:22 PM
Attachments: WI EA Waiver Request 3 31 2020.pdf

MWRO Team,

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

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. The approval is for two months and any extension beyond that timeframe would require additional FNS approval. 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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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]: Wisconsin

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
 - 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]:
- Over a series of days as follows:
- Staggered as follows:
- Other [please explain]: March emergency allotments will be issued on April 11, 2020. April emergency allotments will be issued on April 25, 2020. A catch-up report will be run at the beginning and end of May to capture new applications or households re-establishing eligibility for both March and April. WI anticipates emergency allotments for March and April issued as a result of these catch-up reports to be issued by June.

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: Currently benefits are issued based on a member's 8th digit of their SSN. Issuance dates start on the 2nd of the month and run through the 15th of the month. Based on the timing needed to systematically roll out the new emergency allotment, application processing timeframes, and the additional work required by our EBT vendor, WI will be issuing the emergency supplements for March and April separate from the normal issuance.

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.

Other Requirements: [If applicable, STATE SHOULD ADDRESS ANY OTHER STATE-SPECIFIC NEEDS THEY MAY HAVE.] To meet the mass change notification requirement, Wisconsin anticipates providing information about the emergency supplement through a press release prior to April 11, 2020. Households receiving the supplement will receive a supplement notice with the supplement amount

and the reason for the supplement.

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: **215,046**
- Amount of emergency allotment benefits issued for one month: **\$41,464,233**
- Number of months requested (2 month limit) March and April 2020

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

6. Anticipated Implementation Date: upon approval of the request (initial date 4/11)

7. Signature and Title of Requesting State Agency Official:



Signature

Rebecca McAtee, FoodShare Director

Print Name and Title

8. Date of Request: 3/31/2020