

DSS SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT of SOCIAL SERVICES

HENRY McMASTER, GOVERNOR
MICHAEL LEACH, STATE DIRECTOR



March 23, 2020

Willie C. Taylor, Regional Administrator
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Southeast Region
61 Forsyth Street SW, Suite 8T36
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Please find enclosed South Carolina's request to issue emergency SNAP allotments (supplements) based on the public health emergency declaration by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services under Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

On March 13, 2020, Governor Henry McMaster declared a State of Emergency based on a determination that the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID 19) poses and actual or imminent public health emergency for the State of South Carolina. With this emergency declaration, South Carolina is requesting to issue emergency allotments (supplements) to all authorized SNAP households beginning with March 2020 and April 2020 benefits.

Please contact Erika Anderson (Erika.Anderson@dss.sc.gov) or Dana Outlaw (Dana.Outlaw@dss.sc.gov) if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Gillum", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Amber Gillum
Deputy State Director, Economic Services

Enclosure

cc: Eugene Malveaux, SNAP Branch Chief, FNS SERO

Request to Provide Emergency Allotments (Supplements) to SNAP Households

1. **Type of Request:** Initial
2. **Primary Citation:** Families First Coronavirus Response Act
3. **State [specify]:** South Carolina
4. **Region:** SERO

5. Proposed Alternative Procedures:

Due to pandemic related economic conditions, the South Carolina Department of Social Services is proposing to provide two (2) months of emergency SNAP allotments to address temporary food needs for existing SNAP households. The assignment of emergency SNAP allotments will bring all households up to the maximum benefit allotment, regardless of income. Contingent upon the availability of funding and ongoing need(s), the State may request an extension for additional months of emergency issuance.

The existing SNAP 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]: For March benefits already assigned, SC will issue one mass allotment of emergency CR-SNAP benefits. In addition, in order to include

)))
)))

additional households that are authorized after mass issuance, a daily file will be processed to assign emergency CR-SNAP allotments to newly approved cases.

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:

For April benefits, SC will supplement our regular issuance schedule with a daily file to assign emergency CR-SNAP benefits to newly approved cases.

Other Requirements: South Carolina does not have any other state-specific needs. 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.

The South Carolina Department of Social Services 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.

6. Affected Caseload:

One month estimates for existing SNAP households under these procedures:

- Number of households receiving emergency allotment benefits: 175,712
- Amount of emergency allotment benefits issued for one month: \$30,046,744
- Number of months requested (2 month limit): Two

7. **Date of State's request:** 03/21/2020

8. **Anticipated Implementation Date:** 03/27/2020

))
))

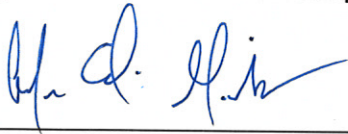
9. State agency contact (name/email/telephone):

Name: Erika Anderson

Title: Director, Division of Program Support, Office of Economic Services

Email: Erika.Anderson@dss.sc.gov

10. Signature and Title of Requesting State Agency Official:



Amber Gillum, Deputy State Director

Office of Economic Services

Amber.Gillum@dss.c.gov