



April 4, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Dwight Crudup
Regional Director
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
1100 Commerce Street, Room 522
Dallas, Texas 75242

Dear Mr. Crudup:

On March 13, 2020 President Trump declared a national emergency due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Additionally, Texas' Governor, Greg Abbott, also issued a statewide declaration of disaster on March 13, 2020 due to impacts of COVID-19.

In order to address the temporary food needs of SNAP recipients and as authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (HR 6201), the Texas Health and Human Services Commission is requesting your consideration of the attached waiver to provide an emergency allotment to bring all households up to the maximum benefit due to pandemic related economic conditions for the months of April 2020 and May 2020.

Your prompt attention to our request is appreciated. If you have questions or require additional information, Hilary Davis, Texas Works Policy Manager for Program Policy, Access and Eligibility Services serves as the lead staff on this matter and may be reached by telephone at (512) 206-5556 or by email at Hilary.Davis@hhs.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wayne Salter".

Wayne Salter
Deputy Executive Commissioner
Access and Eligibility Services

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]:** Texas
- 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 April 2020:

- On a single date [specify]: April 15, 2020
- 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:

Emergency allotments for May 2020 will be issued on May 15, 2020.

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:

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: 896,541
- Amount of emergency allotment benefits issued for one month: \$168,134,793
- Number of months requested (2-month limit) 2 months

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

6. Anticipated Implementation Date: April 15, 2020

7. Signature and Title of Requesting State Agency Official:



Signature

Wayne Salter, Deputy Executive Commissioner, Access and Eligibility Services

Print Name and Title

8. Date of Request: April 4, 2020