



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Human Services Department
Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
David R. Scrase, M.D., Cabinet Secretary
Angela Medrano, Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Kari Armijo, Deputy Cabinet Secretary

March 25, 2020

Dwight Crudup
Regional Director
Southwest Region US DA/FNS
110 Commerce Street, Room 5-C- 30
Dallas, Texas 75242

Subject: SNAP Supplement Waiver Request

Dear Mr. Crudup:

New Mexico, like many of its surrounding states, is operating under a State of Emergency relating to the public health crisis caused by the coronavirus. There are currently over 1,300 cases in the United States. These include cases in NM with 100 Positive Tests for COVID-19. It is also expected that since testing is relatively new, the number of positive cases is set to increase exponentially. Social distancing is the primary non-hygiene related preventative measure identified to prevent the spread of this communicable disease. All executive and public health orders for New Mexico can be located at: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/public-health-orders-and-executive-orders/>.

Given that many SNAP recipients are particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus based on age and disability, SNAP participants would be severely disadvantaged should they be required to quarantine due to exposure. Additionally, the efforts at delaying and preventing community spread would be greatly enhanced if SNAP recipients are provided with a stocked food supply in order to practice social distancing. For these reasons, New Mexico is seeking approval to provide a special supplemental SNAP issuance to all active households. This special supplemental issuance would be a one-time benefit equivalent to no less than half and no more than one month's worth of the maximum monthly benefit amount based on the household size.

If additional information is needed, your staff may contact Gavino Archuleta, SNAP Program Manager, at 505-827-7244 or via e-mail at Gavino.Archuleta@state.nm.us.

Thank you for your assistance in processing this request.

Karmela Martinez, Division Director
New Mexico Human Services Department
Income Support Division

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]:** New Mexico
- 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]: 3/31/2020
- 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:

New Mexico will use their normal issuance schedule starting April 1, 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: [If applicable, STATE SHOULD ADDRESS ANY OTHER STATE-SPECIFIC NEEDS THEY MAY HAVE.]

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: 134,293
- Amount of emergency allotment benefits issued for one month: \$ 23,959,148
- 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:

7. Signature and Title of Requesting State Agency Official:

Karmela Martinez Digitally signed by Karmela Martinez
Date: 2020.03.25 16:23:39 -0600

Signature

Karmela Martinez, Director

Print Name and Title

8. Date of Request: March 24, 2020