

# Hurricane Ida- SNAP Updates



Recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits should be aware of benefits changes as a result of Hurricane Ida. For additional information, visit [www.dcfslouisiana.gov/SNAPstorms](http://www.dcfslouisiana.gov/SNAPstorms).



## 1 AUTOMATIC 55% REPLACEMENTS IN 18 PARISHES

SNAP recipients whose cases were certified before Aug. 29 in the following 18 parishes will receive replacements of 55% of their August benefit amount due to power outages affecting at least half of parish residents following Hurricane Ida:

- Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne and Washington

Replacement benefits are scheduled to be loaded onto EBT cards automatically by Sept. 11.



SNAP recipients in other parishes who lost food purchased with SNAP benefits due to a power outage of 24+ hours straight due to Hurricane Ida can request replacements by submitting a form by September 28. Clients may need to provide documentation from their utility company verifying their power outage. *This can take time, and residents are advised to request their verification documents as soon as possible.*

The form, along with instructions for submitting it, can be found online at [www.dcfslouisiana.gov/SNAPstorms](http://www.dcfslouisiana.gov/SNAPstorms).

## 2 HOT/PREPARED FOODS APPROVED - THROUGH 9/28

As a result of a federal waiver, SNAP and P-EBT benefits can be used, through Sept. 28, to purchase hot or prepared foods from retailers that accept EBT cards.

## 3 SNAP INTERVIEWS SUSPENDED THROUGH 11/30

This includes interviews for new SNAP applications. This doesn't mean automatic SNAP approval. To be considered for benefits, you must first fully complete your application. It's important to include identity and all income and resource information and respond quickly to any questions. If staff need additional information, they will contact you, usually via mail. Any missing information will affect your eligibility and lengthen the time it takes to process your application.

## 4 CERTIFICATION DEADLINES EXTENDED 3 MONTHS

All SNAP certification deadlines have been extended for 3 months, beginning in September. That means, for example, if you have a **redetermination** or **simplified report** due in September, it will now be due in December.

For more information about Disaster Food Assistance, visit [www.dcfslouisiana.gov/DisasterFAQs](http://www.dcfslouisiana.gov/DisasterFAQs)



## SNAP Nondiscrimination Statement

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the agency (state or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027) found online at: [How to File a Complaint](#), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
2. Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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