



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE

## Winter Storm Nemo Assistance SNAP Household Misfortune Replacement Benefits

February 12, 2013

February 12, 2013

Dear Community Partner:

Winter storm Nemo passed through New England on February 8 and 9, bringing significant damage to a number of communities. High snow fall combined with significant wind conditions has caused widespread power outages across much of the Massachusetts coast.

### SNAP Replacement Benefits

***Households receiving SNAP may apply to the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) for SNAP “replacement benefits” due to household misfortune.*** Affected households who receive SNAP benefits may request replacement of food lost due to household misfortune, such as an extended power outage of at least four hours, a flood, or an equipment failure (such as a refrigerator or freezer). Replacement is limited to the value of the food lost or damaged, not to exceed the total monthly SNAP benefit amount the household received.

*DTA has applied to USDA for a waiver to provide “mass/automatic replacement benefits” to some households living in Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Nantucket, Norfolk and Plymouth Counties. If granted, DTA would automatically replace 40% of these households’ February SNAP benefits. If it is granted, DTA will notify community partners immediately.*

### Application Deadline

Households must begin the replacement benefit application process within 10 days of the loss. Because the storm and power loss occurred on February 8 and 9, ***households must report their loss associated with this storm by the end of the day on Tuesday, February 19, 2013.*** Note that they must then return a signed and completed statement of loss within 10 days of reporting the food loss.

*DTA may apply to USDA for an extension of this deadline. If it is granted, DTA will notify community partners immediately.*

### Process for Applying

To receive replacement benefits:

- Clients must report the loss of food by phone, in person or in writing to DTA within 10 days of the loss. We estimate that for most households, the loss would have occurred on February 8 or 9; therefore, they should apply by Tuesday, February 19.
- Return a signed and completed *Statement of Loss/Request for Replacement Food Due to a Household Disaster or Misfortune* (SNAP-9B) form (attached) to the local DTA office within 10 days of reporting the loss. Note: If the tenth day falls on a weekend or holiday, and the statement is received the next business day, DTA will consider the request to be timely.



- Provide verification of the household misfortune.
  - However, if the household lives in one of the coastal counties that DTA has verified had significant power outages, DTA will not require third party verification. Instead, households can simply submit the SNAP 9-B form (attached). The list of communities follows.
  - If the household does not reside in one of these communities, they must provide a verification of the household misfortune by a third party. Examples of third parties who can provide verification include the Red Cross, utility company, fire department or by a person outside of the household.

Cities and Towns Exempt from the Requirement of Third Party Verifications

Cities and towns in Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Nantucket, Norfolk and Plymouth Counties:

Abington	Eastham	Middleborough	Seekonk
Acushnet	Easton	Millis	Sharon
Aquinnah	Edgartown	Milton	Somerset
Attleboro	Fairhaven	Nantucket	Stoughton
Avon	Fall River	Needham	Swansea
Barnstable	Falmouth	New Bedford	Taunton
Bellingham	Foxborough	Norfolk	Tisbury
Berkley	Franklin	North Attleboro	Truro
Bourne	Freetown	Norton	Walpole
Braintree	Gosnold	Norwell	Wareham
Brewster	Halifax	Norwood	Wellesley
Bridgewater	Hanover	Oak Bluffs	Wellfleet
Brockton	Hanson	Orleans	West Bridgewater
Brookline	Harwich	Pembroke	West Tisbury
Canton	Hingham	Plainville	Westport
Carver	Holbrook	Plymouth	Westwood
Chatham	Hull	Plympton	Weymouth
Chilmark	Kingston	Provincetown	Whitman
Cohasset	Lakeville	Quincy	Wrentham
Dartmouth	Mansfield	Randolph	Yarmouth
Dedham	Marion	Raynham	
Dennis	Marshfield	Rehoboth	
Dighton	Mashpee	Rochester	
Dover	Mattapoisett	Rockland	
Duxbury	Medfield	Sandwich	
East Bridgewater	Medway	Scituate	



