



Hurricane Harvey Disaster SNAP

Wayne Salter
Associate Commissioner

Health and Human Services
Commission



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

November 8, 2017



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Interim Charge

*Examine efficiency of the
Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program (SNAP)
and Disaster-SNAP (D-SNAP)
in Harvey-affected areas.*



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

SNAP Overview

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families.
- Benefits are entirely federally funded and eligibility is based on financial and non-financial requirements, such as citizenship and residency.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Hurricane Harvey Emergency Food Assistance

HHSC's initial disaster response included several federal waivers to ensure current SNAP recipients continued to receive assistance as they recovered from the storm to include:

- Ability to Purchase Hot Foods
- Early Benefit Issuance
- Automatic Benefit Replacements
- Extended Certification Periods
- Supplements to Bring Current Recipients to Maximum Allotment

Disaster SNAP Overview

- Available for counties with a presidential declaration of Individual Assistance
- Provides a one-time food assistance benefit to eligible families recovering in the wake of a disaster
- Individuals currently receiving SNAP do not qualify for D-SNAP
- Benefit is equal to the maximum SNAP allotment based on household size for two months
- Verification of identity and residency in a declared county at the time of disaster required



D-SNAP Income Limits and Allotments

Household Size	D-SNAP Net Income Limit ¹	SNAP Net Income Limit	D-SNAP and SNAP Maximum Allotment
1	\$1664	\$990	\$194
2	\$2009	\$1335	\$357
3	\$2354	\$1680	\$511
4	\$2710	\$2025	\$649
5	\$3084	\$2370	\$771
6	\$3458	\$2715	\$925
7	\$3804	\$3061	\$1022
8	\$4151	\$3408	\$1169

¹ The D-SNAP income limit is the SNAP net income limit plus the standard deduction for the household size and maximum shelter cost of \$517 which is provided to regular SNAP households (For example, for a household of one - \$990 + \$157 + \$517 = \$1664).



Applying for D-SNAP

- Application period is limited and based on the county of residence
- Individuals must apply in-person at a designated D-SNAP site
- Applicants must show proof of identity; all other eligibility requirements are self-declared unless questionable
- Benefits are loaded on a Lone Star Card within three days of applying



Communications Strategy

- Distributed news releases and flyers to media outlets and county officials, including their public information officers, prior to D-SNAP events
- Created a webpage specifically for D-SNAP benefits and posted information about where to apply
- Social media accounts updated with the latest D-SNAP information and sample social media posts provided to county officials





Disaster Assistance Issued

- D-SNAP benefits issued to over 1.6 million individuals, with benefits totaling more than \$532 million.
- SNAP supplements issued to over 1 million individuals, with benefits totaling more than \$145 million.
- SNAP Replacement Benefits issued to over 1.6 million individuals, with benefits totaling more than \$91 million.
- SNAP and D-SNAP benefits issued as result of Hurricane Harvey totaled more than \$769 million.
- The current estimate for D-SNAP administrative costs is \$16.7 million AF (\$8.3 million GR). This is not final, as the agency is still identifying and collecting information on related expenditures.



Recommendations

- Increase collaboration with state, county and city officials to establish awareness of D-SNAP.
- Work with state, county and city officials to pre-select and evaluate potential D-SNAP sites and maintain a list of those sites with routine review.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Appendices

D-SNAP Site Approval Process

- HHS conducted a webinar on September 7, 2017, for county officials explaining the D-SNAP process and site needs and provided counties potential traffic flow based on county population.
- Counties submitted the D-SNAP Site Request form, identifying a site and dates of operation along with site adequacy information.
- HHS met with county officials at the site to discuss site adequacy and how the site would be set up.
- HHS submitted wavier requests to FNS and notified the authorized county representative upon approval.



Hurricane Harvey Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) Request Form

Hurricane Harvey Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) Request

1	Requesting County:		
2	Site Location and Address:		
3	Earliest Date Site Will be Available (Note any Date Limitations/Considerations):		
4	Location Site Manager/Contact Information:	Primary:	Email: Phone:
		Backup:	Email: Phone:

Physical Adequacy of Proposed Site Location

	Readiness Element	Yes	No	Comments
5	Location is elderly and wheelchair accessible			
6	Adequate security has been arranged to be onsite during operating hours for crowd control and to provide armed escort for EBT staff for the duration of the program			
7	Adequate Parking and traffic controls arranged			
8	Location within close proximity of the affected community			
9	Public transportation within close proximity to the site			
10	Site is large enough to accommodate estimated applicants, eligibility staff and volunteers			
11	Application completion area is protected from the elements			
12	Separate location/room with seating to service the elderly/disabled or others needing accommodations			
13	Adequate power (electricity, generator) if applicable			
14	Site has air conditioning/heat, chairs, restrooms, drinking water, snacks, etc.			
15	Restrooms are wheelchair accessible			
16	Appropriate medical and first aid assistance arranged			

Authorized Requesting Authority: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Separate forms must be completed for each county and for each site location. Forms should be sent to Kim Bazan at: Kim.Bazan@hhsc.state.tx.us.

