

Assistance to Evacuees from Puerto Rico due to Hurricanes Irma and Maria

DFD Instruction No# 17-10-4 for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

This only applies to evacuees from Puerto Rico, effective October 31, 2017.

DFD Instruction No# 17-09-06 addressed Assistance to Evacuees from Hurricane Irma in general.

Welfare Agencies processing NJ SNAP applications for households displaced from Puerto Rico by Hurricanes Irma and Maria and currently residing in New Jersey.

Evacuees that were Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) recipients may apply and receive NJ SNAP benefits even if they have not closed their nutrition benefits case in Puerto Rico.

Welfare Agencies must:

- Ask applicants if they intend to remain in New Jersey or intend to return to Puerto Rico. This question will help determine how long the certification period will be.
- Applicants must sign affidavits.

Households staying beyond November 30, 2017, will follow the regular NJ SNAP eligibility rules, including expedited procedures as appropriate.

Displaced households will be treated as a separate household from any non-displaced persons sheltering them.

NO member of the displaced household will be able to receive both NAP and NJ SNAP benefits simultaneously.

Temporary / Unsure Applicants:

Granted 2 months of expedited benefits at the maximum allotment for their household size.

After two-month period ends, applicants will follow the normal program eligibility rules for NJ SNAP benefits.

Evacuees Who Were NOT receiving Nutrition benefits (NAP)

DO NOT need to sign the affidavit and may apply for benefits under regular SNAP procedures.

Additional Information:

Evacuees should be encouraged to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance. FEMA at 1-800-621-3362. FEMA web address is www.disasterhelp.gov