



Connecticut Department of Social Services

NEWS RELEASE

Media contact: David Dearborn
860-424-5024; david.dearborn@ct.gov

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**State's Food Stamp Recipients
Can Apply for Extra Help**

HARTFORD -- **Current recipients** of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, also known as food stamps) can apply for replacement benefits if they lost food from storm-related power outage, Social Services Commissioner Roderick L. Bremby said today.

To be eligible, recipients must have lost food costing more than 15% of their October SNAP benefit amount. Reports may be made by calling 2-1-1 or visiting www.211ct.org by midnight Saturday, Nov. 19.

Determination of replacement benefits will be made after return and review of signed affidavits, in accordance with federal rules.

Commissioner Bremby said the over-15% threshold for reporting food loss stems from the federal government already approving across-the-board replacement of 15% of October benefits for SNAP recipients in Connecticut. The Department of Social Services is issuing those federal replacement benefits to SNAP recipients Thursday, Nov. 17.

Benefits are issued through ATM-style debit cards for purchasing only federally-approved items at supermarkets and groceries.

No 'Disaster SNAP' for October snowstorm

Commissioner Bremby noted that so-called 'Disaster SNAP' benefits will not be available from the federal government for October snowstorm losses, as they were after Tropical Storm Irene.

To apply for federal approval of Disaster SNAP, states must be granted a major disaster declaration that includes Individual Assistance. Preliminary damage assessments of uninsured major damage to homes from the October snowstorm showed that the state would not meet the FEMA threshold for the FEMA Individual Assistance Program.

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