Date: September 14, 2017  Texas Works Bulletin 17-11 - Revised

To: Eligibility Services – Regional Directors
   Program Managers
   Eligibility Services Supervisors
   Regional Attorneys
   Hearings Officers

From: Regina Carter, Director
       Policy Strategy, Analysis and Development
       State Office 2115

Subject: Revised - Implementation of Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) for Hurricane Harvey - Phase I - 11 Counties

Bulletins are sent to supervisors and other regional managers. Supervisors must share this information with all Texas Works staff. Please ensure that copies are provided to staff that do not have access to e-mail. If you have any questions regarding the policy information in this bulletin, follow regional procedures.

Active bulletins are posted on the Texas Works Handbook (TWH) website at https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/handbooks/texas-works-handbook

Texas Works Bulletin (TWB) #17-011, Implementation of Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) for Hurricane Harvey is revised to reflect the following:

- Revised application process for individuals residing in one of the 11 counties but displaced to a different county that allows them to go to any local office to apply for D-SNAP during the D-SNAP Filing Period;
- Clarification that as special sites to serve large populations are launched in a specific county, local offices in that county will not accept D-SNAP applications from county residents;
- Staff instructions to process D-SNAP in TIERS when the household received one month of SNAP;
- Clarification that an individual with a current disqualification in an active SNAP household is ineligible for D-SNAP benefits but eligible for SNAP supplements if in an active SNAP household;
- Issuance schedule for automatic supplemental SNAP benefits has been revised; and
- Link to the LOOP where staff can locate D-SNAP applications, forms and other related material information.

Please discard the previous version of TWB #17-11 and replace it with this version.
Background

The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has, under federal guidance, created a comprehensive disaster food assistance program in order to respond to a disaster event. The Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP) program uses different policies and procedures than the regular SNAP and has a specific disaster mode in the Texas Integrated Eligibility System (TIERS).

On September 9, 2017, HHSC received federal approval from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to implement D-SNAP for the following counties who received a Presidential Disaster Declaration with Individual Assistance following Hurricane Harvey’s impact to the southeastern part of the state.

This bulletin provides policy, important reminders, and other information regarding D-SNAP.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Counties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region 5</td>
<td>Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San Jacinto, and Tyler.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 6</td>
<td>Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 7</td>
<td>Bastrop, Fayette, and Lee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 8</td>
<td>Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzalez, Jackson, Karnes, Lavaca, and Victoria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 11</td>
<td>Aransas, Bee, Kleberg, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D-SNAP Application Locations, Dates and Time

D-SNAP will be implemented in phases. The first phase includes the following 11 counties: Dewitt, Gonzales, Jasper, Karnes, Kleberg, Lavaca, Matagorda, Newton, Orange, Sabine and Tyler.

D-SNAP applications will be accepted and processed only for individuals who were residents of one of the 11 counties at the time of the disaster. If the individual:

- Resides in one of the 11 counties, they must go to the office/site designated below for that county.
- Has been displaced to another county, they can visit a local office in that county.
  - For example, if an individual was living in Orange County at the time of the disaster and is temporary displaced in Travis County, that individual can go to a local office in Travis County to apply for D-SNAP.

The following HHSC eligibility offices will be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. accepting and processing D-SNAP applications.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dewitt County - Cuero</td>
<td>106 E. French St. Cuero, TX 77954</td>
<td>Matagorda County - Bay City</td>
<td>1700 Merlin St. Bay City, TX 77414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonzales County - Gonzales</td>
<td>1600 Sara Dewitt Dr., Suite 200 Gonzales, TX 78629</td>
<td>Newton County - Kirbyville</td>
<td>314 N. Herndon Kirbyville, TX 75956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Jasper County)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasper County - Kirbyville</td>
<td>314 N. Herndon Kirbyville, TX 75956</td>
<td>Orange County - Orange</td>
<td>2222 Gloria Dr. Orange, TX 77630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasper (Jasper County)</td>
<td>928 Marvin Hancock Dr. Ste. A Jasper, TX 75951</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnes County - Karnes City</td>
<td>417 S. Panna Maria Ave. Karnes City, TX 78118</td>
<td>Sabine County - Hemphill</td>
<td>2015 Worth St. Hemphill, TX 75948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kleberg County - Kingsville</td>
<td>1413 E. Corral Kingsville, TX 78363</td>
<td>Tyler County - Woodville</td>
<td>930 N. Magnolia Woodville, TX 75979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavaca County - Hallettsville</td>
<td>1309 E. Cemetery Rd. Hallettsville, TX 77964</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

- More counties will be added in the coming days. Larger-populated sites, such as Houston and Corpus Christi, will launch in the coming days with special sites to accommodate large volumes of people who would not be able to efficiently be served through a local HHS office.
- As special sites to serve large populations are launched for specific counties, local offices in those counties will not accept D-SNAP applications from residents of those counties. For example, if a special site is launched in Harris County, local offices in Harris County will not accept D-SNAP applications from Harris county residents. Harris County residents will be directed to the special site to apply for D-SNAP.
- For EBT Cards issued in local offices not located in one of the disaster counties, follow these instructions:
  - The EBT clerk issues the card to the client by completing the Form H1173, EBT Card Issuance and PIN Self-Selection/Issuance Log, except for entering the EDG number.
    - Once the information is entered in TIERS through the D-SNAP driver flow, this number will be provided to the clerk by the processing worker.
  - EBT clerk will annotate the Form H1173 with “DSNAP” for the card being issued.
  - The card will not be entered in the EBT system and therefore will not show up as a transaction on the daily AT report.
• The processing worker must provide the EBT clerk with the EDG number once it is entered in the TIERS system.

• For reconciliation purposes, the clerk will:
  o Enter the EDG number on the Form H1173 log for the card that was issued to the individual.
  o Perform inquiry in the EBT system and confirm the card issued in TIERS through the D-SNAP driver flow is the same number showing on the account.
  o Print a copy of the account showing the individual's name, EDG number, and EBT card number and attach it to the Form H1173 log.

In addition, D-SNAP applications will be accepted on the following designated days based on the applicant's last name for those processed in the 11 counties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Last name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>A - C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 14</td>
<td>D - H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>I - M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td>N - R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>S - Z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 18 &amp; 19</td>
<td>Anyone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Depending on the number of individual’s being served at a local office, the office may be able to serve applicants outside of their designated days.

**Disaster SNAP Eligibility Policy**

**D-SNAP Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for D-SNAP, the household must:

• **Have lived in a Presidential Disaster Declared with Individual Assistance County at the time of the disaster.**

• **Have experienced at least one of the following:**
  o A qualifying disaster-related expense,
  o Inaccessibility of resources, or
  o Loss of income; and

• **Be at or below the D-SNAP income limit for their household size.**

Any expense that is a disaster-related expense or any loss of income or loss of the accessibility to resources due to the disaster qualifies the household as a potential D-SNAP recipient.

Qualifying disaster-related expenses can range from the costs to evacuate to the costs of cleaning up after the disaster. Households must have paid the expense or expect to pay the expense within the Disaster Budgeting Period. Incurring the expense is not enough for the household to qualify. In determining whether an applicant household sustained a disaster-related expense, consider whether an expense has been or will be reimbursed during the Disaster Budgeting Period. Even if there is a reimbursement, staff must also consider whether the reimbursement fully covers the expense. If not, the household may be eligible for D-SNAP.
As examples, for loss of income, the employer may not be operational, and for loss of resource accessibility, it may be that a severe power outage prevents the household from accessing cash through an Automated Teller Machine.

**Disaster Benefit Allotment**

Hurricane Harvey D-SNAP households will receive two full-months of D-SNAP allotments for the designated D-SNAP Benefit Months (August and/or September 2017). The D-SNAP allotment amount is the same as the maximum allotment issued for regular SNAP for the household size. Benefits are not prorated.

**Duplicate Participation**

A household is not eligible for D-SNAP for a month in which they received regular SNAP benefits. In addition, a household is ineligible for regular SNAP benefits if the household received D-SNAP. Prior to disposing a D-SNAP application, staff must do inquiry to determine if the individual received D-SNAP or SNAP benefits.

Use the following chart to determine eligibility for D-SNAP for applicants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Did the household receive SNAP or Disaster SNAP benefits?</th>
<th>August 2017</th>
<th>September 2017</th>
<th>Eligible for Disaster SNAP?</th>
<th>Months eligible to receive Disaster SNAP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>September 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>August 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>August 2017 and September 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**
- If an individual applying for D-SNAP has an application pending for regular SNAP, the individual may still qualify for D-SNAP since the applicant is not considered an ongoing recipient of regular SNAP.
- Disqualified SNAP household members are not eligible for D-SNAP as a separate household. More information is available in the *Disqualifications and Supplemental SNAP Benefits* section of this bulletin.

Special processing is needed for households who received SNAP for either August or September (not both August and September). TIERS approves D-SNAP for August and September although the individual is only eligible for one month.

Staff must:
- Go to Individual Information on the Disaster Summary page and check the corresponding checkbox for the selection, Include Individual in Certified Group.
- Must deny D-SNAP for the month the household received SNAP using the following process:
  - Go to the EDG Override Summary tab and override the D-SNAP benefit amount.
• In the **Override Reason** box, enter “Overriding EDG. Client received SNAP benefits and is not eligible to receive D-SNAP for this month.”
• Follow current Second Level Review (SLR) processes and document this action in case comments.

**D-SNAP Filing Period**

D-SNAP applications are accepted for a limited period of time known as the **D-SNAP Filing Period**.

D-SNAP applications will be accepted **September 13, 2017 through September 19, 2017** for the residents of the 11 counties listed above.

D-SNAP applications will not be accepted **after September 19, 2017** for these designated counties. Individuals must apply using normal application policies and procedures and submit Form H1010, Application for Assistance.

**Note:** Staff will be notified of the **D-SNAP Filing Period** for the other counties not included in this phase prior to implementing D-SNAP in those counties.

**Disaster Budgeting Period**

The disaster budgeting period to consider countable income, available resources, and allowable disaster related expense deductions when determining eligibility for D-SNAP due to Hurricane Harvey is **August 23, 2017 through September 22, 2017**.
D-SNAP Application and Interview

Applicants or the applicants authorized representative must submit a D-SNAP application within the designated D-SNAP Filing Period assigned for their county in person at the designated location. The application must contain the applicant’s signature, full name, and date of birth. An interview must be conducted with the applicant or the authorized representative.

Note: Although an SSN is not required, inform the applicant that providing an SSN will assist them for PIN selection.

At the end of the interview, staff must complete and provide Form H1020D, Information about Your Request for Disaster SNAP Food Benefits, to all applicants or their authorized representative indicating if the household is certified or denied. Staff must document, in the space labeled “1020-D given on _____” at the bottom of page 4 of the D-SNAP application, the date the Form H1020-D was given to the applicant.

The D-SNAP application must be data entered into TIERS no later than the third day from the D-SNAP application file date.

Household Composition

Household composition as it existed on August 23, 2017, will be used in determining the D-SNAP allotment. Original disaster household members can be certified together even if the household is split up and evacuates to more than one location.

Applicants may not include other persons with whom they are temporarily residing after re-locating or evacuating following the disaster. This includes mandatory members who ordinarily must apply together.

Residency

The household must have lived in a Presidential Disaster Declared with Individual Assistance County at the time of the disaster.

Citizenship and Alien Status

Citizenship and alien status are not applicable. Applicants cannot be disqualified due to citizenship or alien status.

Students of Higher Education, Strikers, and Fugitives

Staff must not apply students of higher education, striker, or fugitive policy to disaster applicants. Applicants cannot be disqualified for any of these reasons.

Disqualifications

Individuals who have a current disqualification for a felony drug conviction or an intentional program violation are eligible for D-SNAP.
Note: An individual with a current disqualification in an active SNAP household is ineligible for D-SNAP benefits. The individual’s needs will be included in the Supplemental SNAP Benefits for the household. For example, a mom who is disqualified with two children receiving SNAP is not eligible D-SNAP but will be included in the supplemental SNAP benefit allotment with her children. More information is available in the Supplemental SNAP Benefits section of this bulletin.

Social Security Numbers (SSN)

SSNs are requested but there is no requirement to apply for or provide an SSN. If the client cannot provide an SSN for a household member, treat the individual as if she or he has provided Form SSA-5028, and do not disqualify the individual.

SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) Registration and Work Requirements.

SNAP E&T registration is not applicable for D-SNAP applications. Households approved for D-SNAP are not required to participate in SNAP E&T.

Voluntary Quit

Do not disqualify a household member who voluntarily quits a job.

Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs)

Disaster applicants who are ABAWDs are exempt from the time limits. Do not count months of D-SNAP benefits towards the ABAWD time limits. ABAWDs who are currently ineligible for SNAP because their time limits have already expired are eligible for D-SNAP.

Income and Liquid Resources

Only use the household’s net income (take-home pay) and liquid resources, such as cash, checking or savings accounts (do not count vehicle value), that was available to the household during the Disaster Budgeting Period when determining eligibility for D-SNAP.

Notes:
- Do not count money available to a household as both income and a resource.
- Do not count any funds the household cannot access.
- If the household is subject to legal penalties when the funds are not used as intended, Federal disaster payments and comparable disaster assistance provided by states, local governments, and disaster assistance organizations, such as payments from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help with shelter costs, are exempt as income. See policy in TWH A-1324.3 and A-1232.4, Government Disaster Payments.

Disaster Related Expense Deductions

D-SNAP only allows deductions for costs related to the disaster. Applicants may claim disaster related expenses if the expense is paid or will be paid out-of-pocket and not reimbursed.

Examples of disaster-related expenses include:
- Evacuation costs, including gasoline;
• Disaster-related pet boarding fees;
• Storage expenses;
• Home or business repairs;
• Temporary shelter;
• Expenses for clean-up;
• Disaster-damaged vehicle expenses;
• Medical expenses due to a disaster-related illness or injury affecting a household member;
• Costs associated with lost food; or
• Expenses related to replacing necessary personal and household items, such as clothing, appliances, tools, and educational materials.

If the household had disaster expenses that are equal to or greater than $100, provided the expenses is not for loss of food alone, the household is eligible for a Disaster Standard Expense Deduction (DSED). The DSED amount depends on the household size. Households that have a loss of food as their only disaster related expense are not eligible for the DSED. If the household’s expenses exceed the DSED, allow the actual cost of disaster expenses when determining eligibility for Disaster SNAP.

Data Broker

There is no requirement to request Data Broker reports for D-SNAP applications.

Verification Requirements

Verification requirements for the following D-SNAP eligibility criteria are listed below:
• Identity (mandatory)
• Disaster Address/Residence (if possible)
• Household Composition (if questionable)
• Liquid Resources (if possible)
• Income (if possible)
• Disaster-Related Expenses (if possible)

If the household has no other sources available to them at the time of the interview to verify needed information, use client statement; this also includes verification of identity. Do not pend D-SNAP applications for additional verification.

Note: If client statement is accepted for identification, staff must write, “IDV” in the Advisor Notes: section on page 4 of the D-SNAP application. In TIERS, on the Head of Household member - ID Verification Information screen, staff must select Health Care Admission Statement from the ID Verification field.

Appeals

Staff must inform individuals that they can have their application reviewed by a supervisor on-site. An individual can appeal a D-SNAP denial once they receive their TF-0001, Notice of Case Action.
Disaster SNAP Income Test

Staff must add the countable income and liquid resources together and then subtract the DSED or actual disaster related expenses (as applicable) to determine the total disaster income for the household. If the amount of the total disaster income is below the D-SNAP income limits for the household size, and all other D-SNAP eligibility criteria are met, the household is eligible for D-SNAP. Use Disaster Income Limits Through Sept 2017 chart located under TW D-SNAP when determining eligibility.

HHSC Employee Applications

Special procedures are required to process HHSC employee applications for D-SNAP assistance. A Texas Works or MEPD employee at the next highest administrative level must conduct the eligibility determination for another Texas Works or MEPD employee, whenever possible. The employee's immediate supervisor or someone in the direct line of supervision may not process the employee's application, unless there is not another choice.

FNS requires HHSC’s Quality Control (QC) to review a portion of D-SNAP applications and all HHSC employee D-SNAP cases. Access and Eligibility Services (AES) staff must maintain a separate list for all HHSC employee applications so that QC staff may easily retrieve the applications following the disaster event.

Reminders

• All D-SNAP applications are new, single-use case numbers in TIERS, even if the applicant previously received SNAP on another case number. Staff should match existing clients through the file clearance process, but do not associate any other cases or Eligibility Determination Groups (EDGs) with the D-SNAP case. Once a D-SNAP case has been processed, no updates to the case will be allowed and that specific case number cannot be used in the future.

• Application Registration happens automatically when staff enter into the D-SNAP mode through the left navigation in TIERS.

• Individuals have the right to appeal actions taken on the D-SNAP application. Follow TWH B-1000, Fair Hearings, to process appeals for D-SNAP. Individuals also have the right to a supervisory review of their case or application, even at a remote application site.

• An individual who was temporarily staying in a shelter, but did not remain in a shelter for the entire benefit period, is eligible for D-SNAP food benefits if all other eligibility requirements are met.

• All applications must be logged at the site.

Active SNAP Households

Households that received SNAP benefits at the time of the disaster (August 2017 and September 2017) are not eligible for D-SNAP. However, active SNAP households in the following 58 Governor Declared Disaster Counties do receive special considerations.
Governor Declared Disaster Counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Counties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region 5</td>
<td>Angelina, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jacinto, Trinity, and Tyler.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 6</td>
<td>Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 7</td>
<td>Bastrop, Brazos, Burleson, Caldwell, Fayette, Grimes, Lee, Leon,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Madison, and Washington.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 8</td>
<td>Atascosa, Bexar, Calhoun, Comal, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzalez,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guadalupe, Jackson, Karnes, Kerr, Lavaca, Victoria, and Wilson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 11</td>
<td>Aransas, Bee, Cameron, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>San Patricio, and Willacy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Extended SNAP Certification Periods

The certification periods for all households in the 58 Governor declared disaster counties impacted counties have been extended an additional six months so they can continue to receive their SNAP benefits. This applied to all to SNAP recertifications due in August, September and October 2017.

Staff should refer to the Broadcast distributed on August 31, 2017, titled Hurricane Harvey Updates for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for additional information.

Replacement SNAP Benefits

FNS approved HHSC to automatically replace SNAP benefits for August 2017 to individuals residing in the 58 Governor declared disaster counties impacted by Hurricane Harvey. The mass replacement amount was based on the household’s regular monthly SNAP issuance date and a percentage set by FNS. Households did not have to request automatic replacement of their SNAP benefits to receive them.

Mass replacements were issued to eligible households on September 2, 2017. SNAP recipients may still request replacement benefits using Form H1855, Affidavit for Nonreceipt or Destroyed Food Stamp Benefits, if the mass replacement is not equivalent to the amount of food loss claimed by the household as long as the total amount of replacement benefits does not exceed the maximum monthly allotment for the household.

Staff should refer to the Broadcast distributed on August 31, 2017, titled Hurricane Harvey Updates for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for additional information.

Extended Timely Household Reporting of Food Loss

SNAP recipients in the 58 Governor declared disaster counties impacted by Hurricane Harvey can report food loss and request replacement of SNAP benefits through September 30, 2017 and do not have to report within 10 days of the food being destroyed as normally required by policy in TWH, B-344, Destroyed Food.
Staff should refer to the Broadcast distributed on August 31, 2017, titled Hurricane Harvey Updates for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for additional information.

Supplemental SNAP Benefits

HHSC has been granted approval to automatically issue August and September 2017 supplemental benefits to active households in the 39 Presidential Disaster Declared counties in Texas who have been affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Households who were approved for SNAP in August or September 2017 will be issued supplements that will bring the household up to the maximum allotment for the household’s size. The staff nor households need to take any action.

Disqualified household members are included when determining the correct supplement amount for the household; however, alien sponsors are not included in the allotment calculation.

Active SNAP households that do not reside in one of the 39 Presidential Disaster Declared counties eligible for automatic supplements, but claim to have sustained disaster-related expenses or loss of income due to Hurricane Harvey, are eligible for manual supplements.

Accept the individual's statement of expenses or income loss and ask the household to complete and sign the specially-created affidavit for supplemental benefits request form Extra SNAP food benefits due to a disaster. The supplements will be for August and September 2017.

Manual Issuance of Replacement or Supplemental SNAP Benefits

When requesting a manual issuance in TIERS for replacement or for supplements, staff must be sure to select the correct drop-down value for the issuance type.

- If replacing benefits,
  - Select the benefit type Replacement, and
  - The issuance reason as Food Destroyed.

- If issuing supplements,
  - Count everyone in the household including those who were previously disqualified (e.g., felony drug conviction or failure to meet citizenship requirement) before manually calculating the remainder of benefits that would bring that household up to the maximum benefit level for the household size.
  - For the benefit type, select Supplemental.
  - For the issuance reason, select Income or Needs Changed.

It is very important that staff correctly identify these issuances so that the FNS-required data reporting functions properly.

Additional Disaster-Related Assistance

In addition to 2-1-1, Option 1, which provides general Information and Referrals (I&R) about local community resources, a new option was added to the 2-1-1 I & R system due to Hurricane Harvey. Option 5 helps individuals connect with services and resources in the individual’s area, like disaster assistance, food, shelter, and clothing. Option 6 provides information about Disaster SNAP benefits.
For disaster-related assistance that may be available locally, households can call 2-1-1, Option 5, toll-free, 24 hours-a-day or go to www.211texas.org/. In some cases, cell phones or out of state callers may have difficulty calling 2-1-1. These individuals can call the following alternate toll-free number - 1-877-541-7905, and select Option 5.

For life-threatening, emergency situations due to Hurricane Harvey, callers should call 9-1-1 and remain on the line for the next available operator.

**Effective Date**

The D-SNAP policy is effective with the release of this bulletin for D-SNAP applications filed on or after September 13, 2017 until September 19, 2017 in the identified counties.

Staff will be notified prior to implementation of the remaining impacted disaster counties not covered during this initial D-SNAP Filing Period.

**Forms**

The Disaster SNAP application (English and Spanish) and other needed forms can be found on the Loop:

https://oss.bxhhsc.txnet.state.tx.us/sites/tw/SitePages/Disaster%20SNAP.aspx

**Training**

Web-based training for Disaster SNAP policies and processes related to Hurricane Harvey is available to staff on the Loop:

https://oss.bxhhsc.txnet.state.tx.us/sites/tw/SitePages/Disaster%20SNAP.aspx

Training Development and Delivery will release additional information about updated D-SNAP trainings.

**Alpha Designations for Active Sites**

Information about the alpha designations for local offices can be can here:

https://oss.bxhhsc.txnet.state.tx.us/SiteAssets/Pages/Harvey/DSNAP_Active_Sites.xlsx