

Program(s) Affected: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Title of Rule: Emergency Supplemental Nutrition Assistance for Victims of Disasters Procedures

Stage of Rulemaking: Proposed rule under development

Is the Rule Currently Open for Public Comment? No

Rule Summary:

The Department is amending a SNAP regulation at §280.1 to establish procedures for the delivery of the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) by State agencies. The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (FNA) provides authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to establish temporary emergency standards of eligibility for the duration of an emergency for households who are victims of a disaster which disrupts commercial channels of food distribution.

The interim D-SNAP regulations at §280.1 do not expand substantially upon the D-SNAP section of the FNA. In 1995, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) developed the *Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Guidance*, which provides policy guidance to State administering agencies for all phases of program operation in order to provide detailed guidance to State agencies as they plan, operate, and assess their D-SNAP operations. FNS plans to publish a proposed rule for D-SNAP that will codify longstanding policies from the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Guidance.

Subjects to be addressed in the proposed rule will include: 1) The circumstances that qualify a State agency to operate a D-SNAP and how State agencies can obtain FNS approval for such a program; 2) Requirements for the content and submission of State Plans of Operation; 3) Household eligibility requirements, including circumstances that will qualify a household for D-SNAP assistance and procedures for calculating income eligibility; 4) Certification process requirements, including requirements for State D-SNAP certification systems, certification procedures, and standards for client and employee fraud prevention; 5) Benefit issuance procedures; 6) Data reporting requirements, including required elements for daily and final reports; and 7) Requirements for post-disaster reviews of operations.

The rule is still under development and the notice of proposed rule is anticipated May 1, 2013.