

# DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO 2017 HURRICANE EVACUEES

## Food Assistance (available until October 31, 2017)

### **Evacuees from Puerto Rico who were in Puerto Rico's federal Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP)**

- Households that were receiving NAP at the time Hurricane Irma or Maria occurred, and are displaced by those storms may apply and receive New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NJ SNAP).
- There is no minimum amount of time that the applicant needs to be in New Jersey.
- There are different eligibility factors depending how long the person will remain in New Jersey.
- Displaced NAP households must complete an affidavit acknowledging that they cannot receive NAP and NJ SNAP simultaneously and that the household will close its NAP case as soon as possible.

**For evacuees who apply after October 31, 2017 – normal NJ SNAP application rules apply.**

### ***Evacuees from Puerto Rico who were not receiving NAP***

*Displaced individuals who were not receiving NAP do not need to sign the affidavit and may apply for benefits under regular NJ SNAP procedures immediately.*

### ***Evacuees from areas other than Puerto Rico and from other storms***

*All other hurricane evacuees may receive traditional food assistance under the regular NJ SNAP eligibility requirements.*

## Cash/Housing Assistance (available until December 31, 2017)

### **Evacuees from Hurricanes Harvey/Irma/Maria**

- Evacuees can apply for emergency-specific, short-term cash assistance benefits as of August 10, 2017.
- These benefits are available for up to four months. These benefits will end on December 31, 2017, regardless of when the benefits started.
- These cash/housing benefits are not “assistance” under federal regulations. Therefore, they are not subject to Work First New Jersey (WFNJ)/Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) requirements such as work participation, time limits, cooperating with child support rules, etc.
- These benefits also are not subject to the requirements under the WFNJ/General Assistance (GA) program.
- Short-term shelter, hotel, motel, or boarding home placements as a bridge to other housing may be available.

**After December 31, 2017: Evacuees would need to apply for WFNJ/TANF or WFNJ/GA and must meet all applicable program requirements.**

## Child Care Assistance

Child care services also may be available in certain circumstances.

## How to Apply for Assistance

Applicants seeking food, cash/housing and/or child care assistance should visit a local County Welfare Agency (CWA).

In addition, CWAs will assist or direct applicants in accessing other federal benefits to which they may be entitled or had been receiving prior to evacuating (i.e. Unemployment benefits, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), etc.)

**Please Note: Food, cash or housing evacuee benefits may change based on federal or DFD Guidance.**