



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition
Service

July 19, 2023

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

Leslie Wisdom
Director
Food & Nutrition Program Director
Economic Services Division
Vermont Department for Children and Families

Dear Director Wisdom:

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the July 17, 2023, request by the Vermont Department for Children and Families (“the State agency”) to waive the statutory definition of “food” under Section 3(k)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and accompanying regulations at 7 CFR 271.2 by temporarily allowing households participating in with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to purchase hot foods with program benefits at authorized retailers.

On July 14, 2023, President Joseph R. Biden Jr., through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), issued a major disaster declaration ([DR-4720-VT | fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov/DR-4720-VT)) that authorized Federal individual assistance for six counties in Vermont (Chittenden, Lamoille, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor counties) due to the severe storms and flooding that began on July 7, 2023.

The State agency has requested to implement this waiver in all 14 counties in Vermont (Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor counties). While FNS generally limits approval of this waiver to counties authorized for individual assistance and counties that border those authorized for individual assistance, we approve this alternative procedure due to the extensive impact of the recent floods throughout the entire State as attested to by the State agency.

This waiver approval is effective immediately, through August 18, 2023, per the State agency’s attestation of the need for hot food until then due to prolonged power outages, damage to homes, the displacement of residents, and other conditions that prevent households from purchasing and preparing food. FNS will notify SNAP authorized retailers in the impacted counties.

FNS approves this waiver under the authority of Section 412 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and Section 5(h)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

Director Wisdom

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If you have any questions regarding this waiver or its implementation, please reach out to your Regional Office SNAP contacts.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Catherine Buhrig

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Catherine Buhrig

Associate Administrator

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program