



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Secretary

October 17, 2017

Mr. Robin Bailey
Southeastern Regional Administrator
USDA, Food & Nutrition Service
61 Forsyth St, SW, 8T36
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Bailey,

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) has administered federal food assistance through the United States Department of Agriculture Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) to more than 2.2 million Floridians to date affected by Hurricane Irma. DCF has processed more than 577,000 DSNAP applications statewide and more than \$836 million in food assistance has been distributed between DSNAP and SNAP supplements across Florida that will help more than 6 million Floridians get back on their feet.

While we have served a great number of families, we feel there is more that can and must be done to improve this process. DCF conducted DSNAP in the counties of Broward and Miami-Dade during October 11-14, and October 11-15, respectively. Due to the unprecedented and historic response, DCF seeks to provide another opportunity for residents of these counties to apply for DSNAP by opening one more site in each county for three additional days. Broward remains within the standard seven-day operation previously approved by Food and Nutrition Service, but DCF seeks an additional day for Miami-Dade, resulting in an eight-day operation.

Additionally, DCF is requesting approval to extend DSNAP operations in all counties going forward beyond the standard seven-day operation to best serve Floridians.

DCF observed the DSNAP operations in Texas following Hurricane Harvey. DCF saw the critical need to ensure the most efficient operations were in place to serve Floridians. At the conclusion of its operations, Texas processed approximately 500,000 applications, nearly the same number of applications that Florida has processed in three weeks. Therefore, it is imperative that FNS approve these requests to continue to provide the best service possible to Florida families.

Thank you for your consideration. I would appreciate an expeditious response as we are in a critical planning phase. If you have any questions, please contact Jeri Culley, Assistant Secretary for Economic Self Sufficiency, at 850-273-2424.

Sincerely,

Mike Carroll
Secretary

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