



**DATE:** October 21, 2022

**TO:** Local Workforce Development Board Executive Directors

**FROM:** Keantha B. Moore, Interim Chief, Bureau of One-Stop and Program Support *Keantha B. Moore*

**SUBJECT:** Waiver of Work Requirements for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training and Welfare Transition Programs due to Hurricane Ian

On September 24, 2022, in anticipation of impacts from Hurricane Ian, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order Number 22-219 which declared a State of Emergency for all 67 counties in Florida. Subsequently, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued FEMA-4673-DR, Florida Disaster Declaration which designates disaster-declared areas. In alignment with the FEMA declaration, the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) has notified the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) that through November 19, 2022, work requirements have been waived for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training (E&T) and Welfare Transition (WT) program participants who reside in the following disaster-declared counties\*:

- Charlotte
- Collier
- DeSoto
- Flagler
- Hardee
- Highlands
- Hillsborough
- Lake
- Lee
- Manatee
- Orange
- Osceola
- Pinellas
- Polk
- Putnam
- Sarasota
- Seminole
- St. Johns
- Volusia

\* Note: The counties listed above were the counties included in FEMA-4673-DR as of October 7, 2022.

#### SNAP E&T

DCF will grant impacted Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) "good cause" from participating in SNAP E&T activities. DCF will continue to refer ABAWDs to DEO/Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs); however, LWDBs are not required to engage ABAWDs in the disaster-declared counties included in this memorandum while the waiver is in place. For new referrals and existing participants, LWDBs should advise that program participation is not required at this time and they will be contacted if/when future participation is required.

### Welfare Transition

- *Work Registration* – While work registration is still required, to ensure that Florida families in the disaster-declared counties included in this memorandum have access to temporary cash assistance (TCA) benefits with minimal burden, DEO is encouraging impacted LWDBs to reduce work registration requirements to the following minimum requirements of the automated work registration process in the One-Stop Service Tracking (OSST) system:
  - Automated Orientation, and
  - Automated Needs and Barriers Assessment.
  
- *Work Requirements* – Impacted recipients of TCA benefits are not required to participate in the Welfare Transition program while the waiver is in place. DCF will continue to refer individuals as mandatory participants to DEO/LWDBs; however, LWDBs are not required to engage referred TCA recipients in the disaster-declared counties included in this memorandum while the waiver is in place. For new referrals and existing participants, LWDBs should advise that program participation is not required at this time and they will be contacted if/when future participation is required.

The following actions are either completed or in progress by DEO to mitigate risk to participants in the disaster-declared counties included in this memorandum:

1. Suspended sending out SNAP E&T and WT participation letters to customers effective Monday, October 10, 2022.
2. Suspended automated pre-penalty and sanction processes in the OSST system for both programs effective Monday, October 10, 2022.
3. Coordinated with DCF to end pre-penalty processes and lift sanctions that were initiated or imposed on or after September 24, 2022. For imposed and effective sanctions, DEO's Information Technology team will identify participants that "good cause" should be applied to so DCF can initiate sanction cancellations. LWDBs must grant good cause to WT participants who are not able to comply with program requirements.
4. Suspended the option for case managers to manually request sanctions in OSST effective Monday, October 10, 2022.
5. Reduced the work registration process for applicants of TCA to the minimum requirements of the automated work registration process in OSST (orientation and assessment) for impacted areas.
6. Suspended the automated initial engagement process for SNAP E&T participants.

If you have questions, please contact the respective program areas at:

[SNAPETProgram@DEO.MyFlorida.com](mailto:SNAPETProgram@DEO.MyFlorida.com) or [WTProgram@DEO.MyFlorida.com](mailto:WTProgram@DEO.MyFlorida.com).

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