



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

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SUBJECT: Hurricane Sandy and 6 Cents Certification

TO: Regional Directors
Special Nutrition Programs
All Regions

State Directors
Child Nutrition Programs
All States

We have received several inquiries regarding 6 cents certification and SFAs affected by Hurricane Sandy. Below is guidance for State agencies receiving questions from SFAs affected by the hurricane.

Certification Documentation for the Week of the Storm

We understand that there were some SFAs in hurricane-affected States that had intended for the week of October 29 through November 2 to be the week on which their certification documentation was based. These SFAs had already planned compliant menus and had prepared (or were in the process of preparing) their certification documentation, but were closed some or all of the week due to the impacts of Sandy. Since they were unable to actually serve the planned menu for that week, we have been asked if they must use another week for certification purposes.

In an effort to avoid additional paperwork burden during the time of a disaster, SFAs in the situation described above may use their certification documentation for the week of October 29 through November 2.

There are a couple of important things to note about this exception. This exception only applies to weeks that SFAs were closed due to Hurricane Sandy. It is otherwise expected that SFAs submit menus for a week that the SFA is in session the entire week. It is assumed that all menus planned and served in weeks subsequent to the certification week are also compliant.

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Deadline Extensions

We have also received inquiries regarding extending deadlines for 6 cents certification for the month of October. Specifically, some SFAs that were affected by Hurricane Sandy have expressed concern that they will be unable to submit October certification documentation within the established deadline of November 30.

For example, an SFA wishing to submit menus for the week of October 29th – November 2nd must submit certification documentation by November 30th, in order to earn the performance based reimbursement for the month of October. Some SFAs are concerned about meeting this deadline due to the impact of the hurricane.

States are expected to make reasonable accommodations for schools in impacted areas and should allow appropriate extensions for SFAs affected by the hurricane. Because State agencies are best equipped to know individual SFA circumstances, States should make determinations on the appropriate timeframes to provide affected SFAs to complete their documentation, consistent with individual SFA circumstances.

In the future, if similar unplanned school closures should occur and impact the timely submission of certification documentation, State agencies should contact their Regional Office to discuss appropriate measures to address the circumstances.

Original Signed

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