

**Bob Taft
Governor**



**Barbara Riley
Director**

**30 East Broad Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414
jfs.ohio.gov**

Office of Family Stability Letter No. 35C
September 15, 2005

TO: Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services

FROM: Jeanne Carroll, Deputy Director
Office of Family Stability

**SUBJECT: HURRICANE KATRINA – ENHANCED AND EXPANDED FOOD
STAMP POLICY FOR EVACUEES**

Food Stamp Benefits

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has issued revised policy regarding the Food Stamp Program to enable State agencies to better serve people who have evacuated Hurricane Katrina disaster areas and are applying for food stamp benefits in areas such as Ohio where the Disaster Food Stamp Program is not operating.

Enhanced Disaster Evacuee Policy

FNS has revised the enhanced disaster evacuee policy issued in the Office of Family Stability (OFS) Letter #35B.

- This policy is applicable to evacuees that **apply either in September 2005 or October, 2005.**
- This policy provides a one-month maximum food stamp benefit for any evacuee assistance group applying in September or October and eligibility is based simply on evacuee status.
- Counties should disregard all information regarding income, resources, and deductions when applying the enhanced policy. No questions other than the criteria required under OFS Letter #35B should be posed. Information gathered in the interview for the enhanced policy will be applied to the expanded policy under OFS Letter #35A.

Expanded Disaster Evacuee Policy

FNS has revised the expanded disaster evacuee policy issued in the OFS #35A.

- Applications may be accepted under these policies **through October 31, 2005.**

- County agencies are to certify evacuees from areas affected by the disaster under expedited service rules; however, counties will postpone verification through the December 2005 issuance.
- Normal Food Stamp Program rules apply beginning with January 2006 issuances.

If you have any questions regarding food stamp benefits, please contact Fayette Moore, Program Policy Services Section at 866-886-3537 (Option 6) or through the TANF-FSTA mailbox. For questions concerning EBT, please contact the EBT section at 614-466-6814.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

JC:mb

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| cc: | Barbara Riley, Director | Family Stability staff |
| | Fred Williams, Assistant Director | Loretta Adams, OJFSDA |
| | Bruce Madson, Assistant Director | Crystal Allen, PCSAO |
| | China Widener, Chief of Staff | Kim Newsome, OCDA |
| | ODJFS Deputy Directors | Larry Long, CCAO |