



August 28, 2015

**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

Western Region

90 Seventh St.  
Suite 10-100  
San Francisco, CA  
94103

The Honorable Eloy S. Inos  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Call Box 10007  
Saipan, M. P. 96950

Dear Governor Inos:

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approves the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA) requests to both extend the application processing and issuance period for the disaster nutrition assistance program (D-NAP), and to phase issuance of DCCA's on-going Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits for September 2015. We understand that this will maximize DCCA's ability to finish the processing of D-NAP applications and prepare for administration of new households in the regular program. FNS is approving these waivers in order to better serve the needs of households seeking emergency food assistance and ease the administrative burden DCCA is facing in recovering from Typhoon Soudelor.

In order to accommodate the remaining registered households affected by Typhoon Soudelor, DCCA may continue to process applications for the D-NAP and issue emergency benefits until September 2, 2015. This letter modifies FNS's earlier extension of the D-NAP transmitted on August 25, 2015.

FNS authorizes DCCA to use such funds as available within your existing block grant to continue operating your disaster program and for NAP issuance and administration in September.

Additionally, in order to provide administrative relief to DCCA in managing its workload and maintaining customer service for ongoing recipients, DCCA may phase issuance of NAP benefits originally scheduled for September 1, 2015 until September 4, 2015. FNS believes that the phasing of benefit issuance will help DCCA continue to operate its D-NAP while ensuring current NAP households receive their benefits without too much disruption.

Please contact Maribelle Balbes at [maribelle.balbes@fns.usda.gov](mailto:maribelle.balbes@fns.usda.gov) or Shahdy Monemzadeh at [shahdy.monemzadeh@fns.usda.gov](mailto:shahdy.monemzadeh@fns.usda.gov) of my staff if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Jesus Mendoza, Jr.  
Regional Administrator  
Food and Nutrition Service, Western Region

cc: Laura Ogumoro, CNMI S/A  
Walter Macaranas, CNMI S/A  
Lizbeth Silbermann, FNS HQ  
Sasha Gersten-Paal, FNS HQ  
Mary Rose Conroy, FNS HQ  
Karen Patyk, FNS HQ  
David Burr, FNS HQ  
Jesse Brimhall, FNS HQ  
Toni Abernathy, FNS HQ  
Deanna Stouder, WRO  
Dennis Stewart, WRO, SNAP  
Rebecca Hobbs, WRO, FM  
Maribelle Balbes, WRO, SNAP  
Emerick Konno, WRO, FM  
Shahdy Monemzadeh, WRO, SNAP  
Nick Richardson, WRO, FM