

Natural Disasters & Nutrition Program Support

MARCH 2024



TENNESSEE
JUSTICE
CENTER



INTRODUCTION

TJC'S NUTRITION TEAM

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Kate Goodin

Child Anti-Hunger Advocate

Crys Riles

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Anne Dobson Ball

WIC Partnership & Outreach Coordinator

Geraldine Hernandez-Marin

King Nutrition Fellow

Anna Grace Breedlove

WIC Referral & Data Specialist

TJC'S ANTI-HUNGER ADVOCACY

End hunger in Tennessee by protecting and strengthening the federal nutrition programs: SNAP, WIC, Child Nutrition Programs

- Improve access and remove barriers to programs
- Advocate for solutions to systemic issues
- Educate and inform
- Provide policy expertise
- Direct client work



AGENDA

- **GOALS & OVERVIEW**
- **FEDERAL PROGRAMS**
- **SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK**
- **ACTION ITEMS & NEXT STEPS**
- **RESOURCES**
- **DISCUSSION**



GOALS OF THIS WEBINAR

- 1) Understand how natural disasters affect food security
- 2) Learn how federal programs and other sectors of the food system engage during these disasters
- 3) Leave with knowledge and resources for when disaster strikes in TN



WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

Key infrastructure can fail, leaving people in need even if there is no immediate bodily danger

- **electricity, transportation, telecommunications, sewage, childcare, water access, and more** can all fail even without humans being physically injured
- These can all contribute to hunger and emergent need

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

Several key elements activate to meet **immediate need**

- **Nonprofit organizations:** Salvation Army, Red Cross, Food Banks, and many more
- **Government agencies:** FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and TEMA (TN State level)
- **Other groups:** VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters)
 - National, state, and local

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

SNAP

TWO MAIN PROGRAM RESPONSES

- **Disaster SNAP**
 - Also known as “D-SNAP”
- **Replacement SNAP**
 - Also known as Emergency SNAP



REPLACEMENT SNAP

- Only for people already receiving SNAP benefits who lost food due to:
 - power outage of 12 hours or more
 - household misfortune
- Always available as an option, not just during declaration of a major disaster



REPLACEMENT SNAP

- Apply through [One DHS portal](#)
 - Upload this form: “[Affidavit Request for SNAP Replacement Due to Power Outage \(HS-3003\)](#)”
- Must apply within **10 days of food loss**
- Equals cost of food lost **OR** one month’s benefit at current month’s amount, whichever is **lower**
- Deposited on existing EBT card

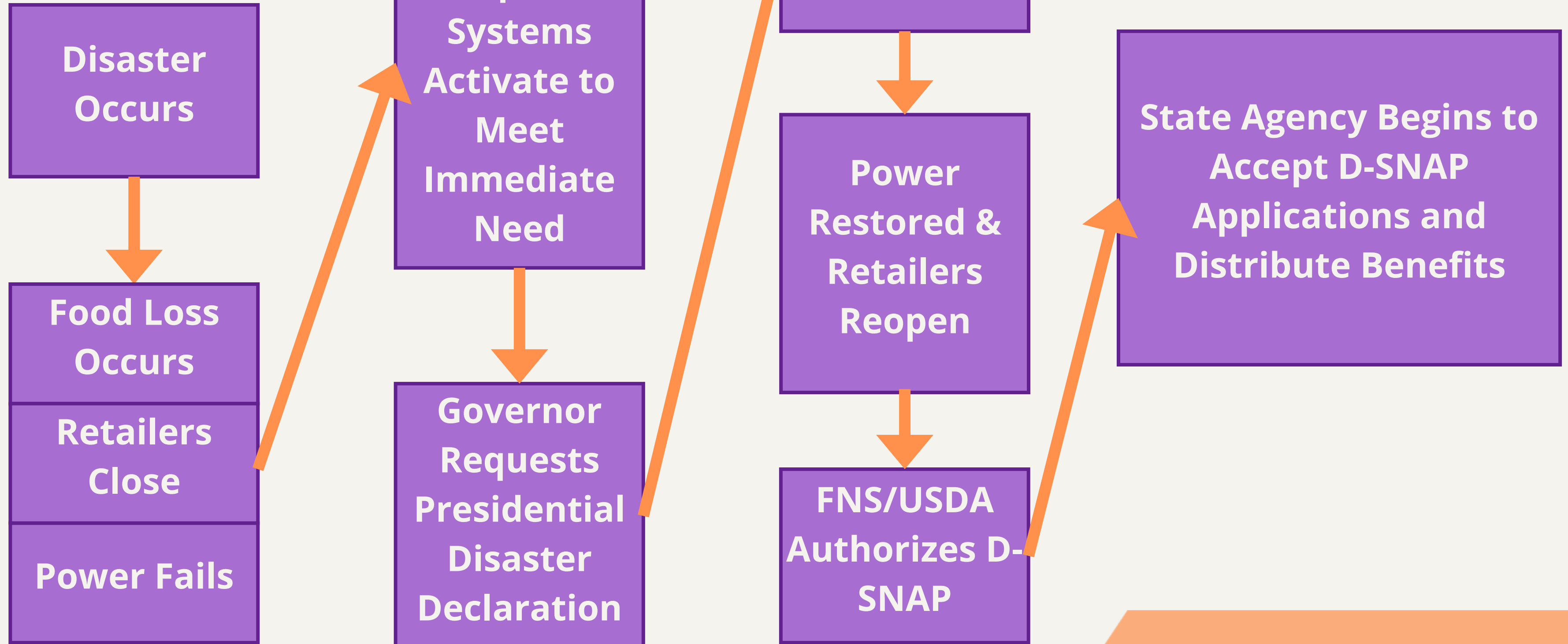


D-SNAP

- Available to anyone impacted by a disaster, not just current SNAP recipients
- Only available once the Governor requests a declaration of major disaster and the President must approve
- Is not always activated after a disaster occurs
- Only applies to the impacted geographic areas and for a limited time



D-SNAP



D-SNAP

- Default application window = 7 days
 - May change based on situation
- Equals one month of benefits for a SNAP household of that size at the maximum amount allowable
- Distributed via EBT cards for use at SNAP retailers



D-SNAP

- USDA's D-SNAP Tracker [HERE](#)
 - Last time in TN: **May of 2023**
- TEMA Alerts [HERE](#)
 - Up to date alerts on current situation
 - Not just food, but all services happening



OTHER SNAP

- USDA may authorize additional options for states when presidential disaster is declared
- Examples:
 - SNAP for hot foods
 - distribution of supplemental benefits
 - extra support for enrolled households as needed
- Must be requested by state



WIC

- WIC is not equipped for disaster response...
 - **HOWEVER**, there are some options



- When **Presidential Declaration** is made, FNS may allow flexibility for states/counties
 - ex. offering flexibilities in what can be purchased if WIC-eligible products aren't available because of supply issues
- Emergency procurement of infant formula/food within 96 hours of declaration
- Allow agencies to reissue benefits

WIC provides lactation support

- Having this support in place can help during disaster relief
- Doesn't require water like formula
- In crises, WIC offices can work with aid groups to provide lactation pumps and other forms of support for babies

County offices past response to disasters in **Davidson County**:

- After **2020 tornadoes**, worked with organizations to sign up WIC-eligible families to get them benefits
- After **2023 tornadoes**, sent text messages to WIC families to connect them to services and reissue benefits if needed

[Access to Baby Formula Act 2022](#)

- Creates failsafe for infant formula in cases of disaster, emergency, or recalled product
- Allows USDA to modify or waive rules regarding access to formula in these situations
 - For instance, USDA might waive the maximum monthly allowance for formula during a crisis

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Whitney Cowles

Director of Agency Relations

Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee

Disaster Response: Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee

Whitney Cowles

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**SECOND HARVEST
FOOD BANK**

of MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Feeding Hope®

When Disaster Strikes

In the event of a local disaster, Second Harvest is uniquely prepared to provide emergency food assistance. We have three warehouses in our 46- county service area, trucks to quickly move food where it is needed, and a food manufacturing facility.

We regularly work with a network of more than 400 food pantries, meal programs, churches, and other nonprofits who we can collaborate with to provide disaster relief food distributions and meals.

We can provide a wide range of food to meet different needs during a disaster. We have a large variety of shelf stable food, fully cooked boil-in-bag meals and tray packs, fresh and frozen food, and produce.

Our leadership has strong, established relationships with Nashville's Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), and Volunteers Active in Disaster (VOAD).



Middle Tennessee Tornadoes: December 2023

- Second Harvest provided more than 150,000 pounds of food and water to four counties in our service area: Davidson, Montgomery, Stewart, and Sumner.
- Our Mobile Market provided free food at five resource events at Madison Fifty Forward for households affected by the tornadoes. We distributed more than 27,000 pounds of fresh produce, milk, masa, beans, rice, bottled water, and other items.
- We attended several resource events for those affected by the tornadoes and provided food boxes and information on food resources and SNAP.



After the Disaster

Second Harvest and our Partner Agencies remain rooted in communities long after the disaster is over. Annually we distribute more than 35 million meals to neighbors in need through our food programs and Partner Agencies. This consistency and collaboration is key to long-term disaster recovery.



Questions?



Whitney Cowles

Director of Agency Relations

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ACTION ITEMS & NEXT STEPS



WORKING GROUPS

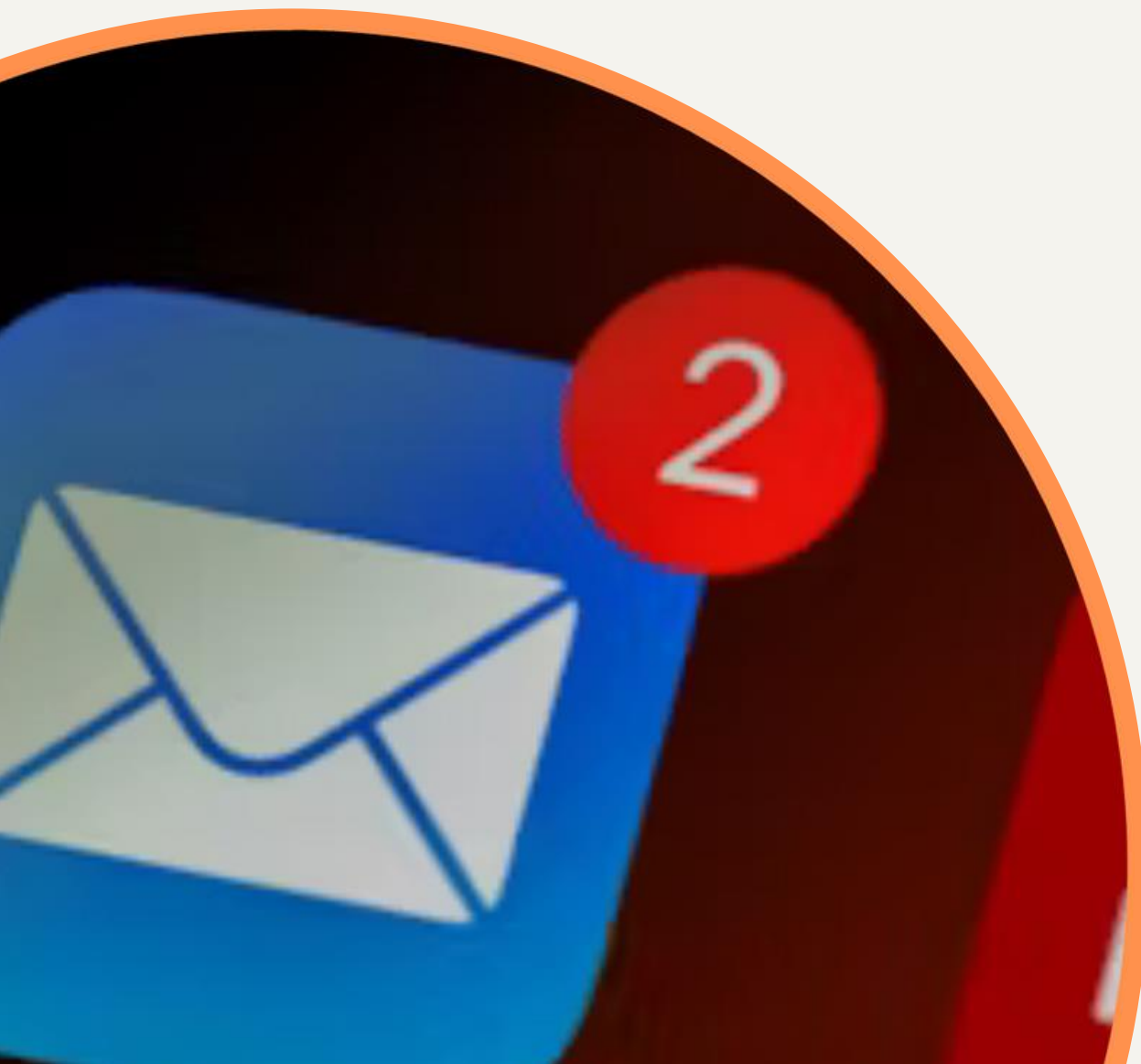
- **WIC Champions**
 - Second Thursdays at 9:00am CT
- **SNAP Access**
 - Third Thursdays at 10:00am CT
- **Healthy Meals Healthy Kids TN**
 - First Thursdays at 1:00pm CT
- **College Hunger Quarterly Call**
 - Next call: 6/15/24 @ 1:00pm CT



NUTRITION NOTE

Join Nutrition Note!

- Our monthly anti-hunger newsletter
- Updates on changes and news
- Sign up [HERE](#)



RESOURCES

- [Replacement SNAP](#)
- [The 19th Article: WIC in Disasters](#)
- [USDA's Disaster Page](#)
- [TEMA News Alerts](#)
- [TJC Nutrition Legislation Tracker](#)
- [SNAP Fact Sheet](#)
- [WIC Fact Sheet](#)
- [SNAP Application Assistance Flyer](#)

**Share
your
resources
in the
chat!**

DISCUSSION

CONTACT US

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