



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
*DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT*



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO  
MAGA'HAGAN GUAHAN  
GOVERNOR OF GUAM

JOSHUA F. TENORIO  
SEGUNDO MAGA'LÁHEN GUAHAN  
LT. GOVERNOR OF GUAM

THERESA C. ARRIOLA, MBA  
DIRECTOR

PETERJOHN D. CAMACHO, MPH  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

AMANDA LEE SHELTON, MPA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

## DPHSS PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY TYPHOON RECOVERY NO. 2026-06

April 20, 2026

### *SNAP Automated Mass Replacement Approved Following Typhoon Sinlaku*

Hagåtña, Guam – The Division of Public Welfare of the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) announces that current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants will receive an Automated Mass Replacement (AMR) of a portion of their April 2026 benefit to support recovery following Typhoon Sinlaku.

Beginning after 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 24, 2026, SNAP participants will receive **63 percent** of their April benefits automatically issued to their Electronic Benefit Transfer cards.

Governor Lou Leon Guerrero stated, “We pushed for every available resource to support our people, and this approval reflects that commitment. Families across Guam are recovering from real loss, and restoring access to food is not optional, it is essential.

This action follows approval from the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service, allowing DPHSS to provide timely support to households affected by extended power outages and food loss across the island.

For April 2026, SNAP benefits were issued to 38,457 participants across 13,804 households, totaling **\$11,549,078**. Through this approved replacement, approximately **\$7,318,163.77** will be reissued to eligible households. **These funds are expected to circulate through Guam’s local economy as families purchase food from approved vendors during recovery.**

Lieutenant Governor Josh Tenorio added, “This did not happen by chance. It took coordination, urgency, and persistence with our federal partners to secure this level of support. That effort translates directly into relief for our community.”

Following Typhoon Mawar, a 50 percent replacement was approved. The current 63 percent replacement was achieved through improved data reporting from ongoing modernization efforts within the Department’s public welfare system. This allowed DPHSS to clearly demonstrate the true level of need following the effects of Typhoon Sinlaku, along with continued coordination and strong advocacy with federal partners.

DPHSS Director Theresa C. Arriola emphasized the execution behind the approval. “Throughout the storm, DPHSS remained in direct communication with the Food and Nutrition Service, already focused on recovery while response efforts were still ongoing. In just a day and a half, DPHSS and FNS prepared and submitted the request on Saturday afternoon, resulting in the approval of a **63 percent** replacement, which will return approximately **\$7.3 million** in food assistance to more than 38,000 participants across Guam. ***These funds move directly through our economy, supporting families while also strengthening local businesses during recovery.***”

Director Arriola added that additional recovery measures are already underway. “DPHSS is actively pursuing additional waivers to expand support during recovery. This includes a Disaster SNAP program for individuals who are not currently SNAP participants, as well as a waiver to extend May and June recertifications for up to six months as Guam continues to stabilize and operations return to normal.”

Please see the attached FAQ for additional details.

For more information, please contact the Division of Public Welfare Bureau of Economic Security at (671) 300-8853 or 300-8872, or the temporary SNAP disaster call center at (671) 735-7321, 735-7325, 735-7310, or 735-7368.

For more news and updates, follow the Department of Public Health and Social Services on social media or visit [dphss.guam.gov](http://dphss.guam.gov).

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**DPHSS PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY**  
**TYPHOON RECOVERY NO. 2026-06**  
(Attachment)

April 20, 2026

***Automated Mass Replacement (AMR) SNAP Benefits***  
***Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)***

**1. What is the Automated Mass Replacement (AMR)?**

The AMR is a one-time automatic replacement of 63% of April 2026 SNAP benefits for eligible SNAP households. This replacement helps compensate for food spoilage caused by power outages from Typhoon Sinlaku.

**2. Who approved the AMR?**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approved DPHSS's waiver request to issue these replacement benefits.

**3. Who is eligible to receive the AMR?**

Only households that received their April 2026 SNAP benefits by April 12, 2026 are eligible.

Eligibility Requirement:

- Clients must have had April benefits successfully issued before or on April 12, 2026.
- Clients who submitted their April renewal form after Friday, April 10, 2026 and therefore did not receive April benefits are not eligible for the AMR.

**4. When will the AMR benefits be issued?**

The 63% replacement amount will be automatically loaded onto the EBT cards after 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 24, 2026.

**5. Do I need to apply for the AMR?**

No. The AMR is automatic for eligible SNAP households. No application or form is required.

**6. How will I receive the AMR benefit?**

The replacement amount will be directly deposited onto your EBT card.

**7. What if my household submitted our April renewal late?**

If your April renewal was submitted after Friday, April 10, 2026, your April benefits would not have been issued on time. In that case, you are not eligible to receive AMR.

**8. Why is eligibility tied to receiving April benefits on time?**

USDA policy only allows replacement benefits issued for SNAP benefits that were already received and at risk of being lost due to disaster-related food spoilage. Households that had not received their April benefits before the storm are not eligible for a replacement.

**9. How much will receive?**

Each eligible household will receive 63% of its April 2026 SNAP issuance as a replacement benefit. Your AMR amount comes from what you actually received in April, not the full allotment. That's why the amounts may not match.

For example, a household size of 2 received \$750 rather than the full allotment of \$806.

63% of \$806 (full allotment for household size of 2) = \$508

63% of \$750 (the amount the household actually received) = \$473

Because the AMR is based on what the household actually received, the replacement amount would be \$473, not \$508.

**10. Who can I contact for more information:**

- Bureau of Economic Security: (671) 300-8853/8872
- SNAP Disaster Call Center: (671) 735-7321/7325/7310/7368/7322

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