

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Governor Rell: Food Stamp Recipients Can Get Extra Help if Food Spoiled from Fairfield County Power Outage**

Governor M. Jodi Rell announced today that Fairfield County residents who receive Food Stamps can get replacement benefits if their food has spoiled in this month's storm-related power outage.

"I urge Food Stamp recipients who have lost power and perishable food supplies to call 2-1-1, toll-free, and ask for replacement benefits," Governor Rell said. "The deadline for calling is Friday, April 2."

Staff at 2-1-1 Infoline will work with the Connecticut Department of Social Services' **Bridgeport**, **Stamford** and **Danbury** offices by referring the information needed to replenish food benefits to offset spoilage losses in March.

Help in buying eligible food items is made available through recipients' ATM-style electronic benefits cards for use at supermarkets, grocery stores, farmers' markets and other approved sites.

Food Stamps, officially known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP, are fully funded by the federal government.

About 54,400 eligible households are served by the DSS Bridgeport, Stamford and Danbury offices.

Altogether, more than 164,000 Connecticut households receive Food Stamp/SNAP benefits from DSS.