State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Chad Poppell
Secretary

DATE: September 5, 2019 **TRANSMITTAL NO.: I-19-09-0011**

TO: Economic Self-Sufficiency Operations Managers
Economic Self-Sufficiency Program Offices

FROM: Tonyaleah Veltkamp, Chief, Program Policy
William Martinez, Director, Data Analytics & Technology
(Signatures on File)

SUBJECT: Applying Good Cause – Hurricane Dorian

EFFECTIVE: September 1, 2019

The purpose of this transmittal is to provide information on applying good cause for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) for the month of September 2019 due to Hurricane Dorian.

Policy:

ABAWDs must participate in employment and training activities for at least 80 hours per month in order to remain eligible for food assistance. Failure to comply with ABAWD work requirements will result in an electronic request from the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to sanction the noncompliant individual.

Applying Good Cause:

Beginning on August 28, 2019, Governor Ron DeSantis' Executive Orders declared a State of Emergency for all 67 counties. With the uncertainty of Hurricane Dorian's path, office closures, and potential power outages and flooding, good cause will be granted for the month of September. Individuals who were already referred to DEO and may have received a sanction or good cause notice between August 28th and August 31st, may contact the Department to discuss their household circumstances to determine if the sanction should not be imposed.

Good cause applies to situations in which an individual would normally meet the ABAWD work requirement by working or participating in a work program but does not due to temporary circumstances beyond their control. DCF will grant good cause for all sanctions requested by DEO for the month of September. In addition, no new ABAWD cases will be sent to DEO for the month of September, those participants will be re-engaged in the month of October.

FLORIDA Instructions:

At the next review, reapplication, or reported change, staff will determine if the ABAWD received food assistance in September 2019. If they received benefits for this month but did not meet an exemption, staff will need to enter an "A" for good cause on the ARFS screen for September 2019.

Regional Program Offices with policy questions related to this transmittal should submit them through the Policy Technical Assistance Request page.

cc: Assistant Secretary for Economic Self-Sufficiency (Taylor Hatch)
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Assistant Secretary for Office of Child Welfare (Patricia Medlock)
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Self Sufficiency (Maggie Mickler)
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