

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck ND 58505-0250

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 11, 2008

Contacts: Arlene Dura, Food Assistance Program Director, N.D. Dept. of Human Services, 701-328-2064; Beverly Mathiason, Rolette County Social Services Director, 701-477-3141; or Heather Steffl, Public Information Officer, N.D. Dept. of Human Services, 701-328-4933

Food Assistance Program (Food Stamps) clients impacted by tornadoes and power outages can request replacement benefits: Must act soon.

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services has announced that Food Assistance Program clients impacted by the July 7 tornadoes and power outages in Rolette County can request replacement benefits by reporting their loss by July 17, 2008.

State Food Assistance Director Arlene Dura said, “Some Food Assistance clients were affected by the tornadoes and resulting power outages. Because their food supplies were damaged or destroyed, they can request replacement food assistance benefits.”

The Rolette County Social Service Office, she said, is working with emergency management officials and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa to coordinate help to affected households. Area utility companies have assisted by providing information about power outage locations.

Dura said affected program participants can report their loss and request replacement benefits at the Rolette County Social Service Office in Rolla, or at the Tribal Emergency Management Office or BIA Social Services Office in Belcourt.

Explaining the replacement program, Dura said it is “dollar for dollar.” “An affected household that requests replacement benefits and received a \$75 food assistance benefit in July 2008 will automatically have an additional \$75 benefit issued to their EBT account,” she said.

She urged food assistance program participants with damaged, destroyed, or misplaced EBT cards to obtain a replacement card from the county social service office.

Individuals with questions about their food assistance benefits can contact the Rolette County Social Service Office at 701-477-3141, or the N.D. Department of Human Services at 800-755-2716.

###