

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamp) clients who lost power  
can request replacement benefits**

BISMARCK, N.D. – Gov. John Hoeven said that the North Dakota Department of Human Services has requested and received federal approval to provide replacement benefits for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program clients impacted by widespread storm-related power outages. To receive the extra help, program participants must report their storm-related food loss to a county social service office and sign a request form by February 28, 2010.

“These replacement benefits should provide real help to people in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program who lost food due to the storm,” Hoeven said. “I encourage them to contact their local county services office to get the process underway as soon as possible.”

Program director Arlene Dura said the U.S. Department of Agriculture makes this extra help available because power outages can damage or destroy clients’ food supplies and can cause others to be displaced from their food supplies.

Dura said the program will replace the amount of the loss, up to a household’s January 2010 benefit amount. A participating household that reports a food loss of \$100 and received a \$100 food assistance benefit in January 2010 would receive an additional \$100 in benefits.

Dura said program clients with misplaced EBT cards, which are the specialized debit cards clients use in stores to purchase food items, can obtain replacement cards from any county social service office. Individuals with questions about their benefits can contact the North Dakota Department of Human Services at 800-755-2716.

In December 2009, the federally funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program served 58,796 qualifying low-income North Dakotans.

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