

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps) clients need new EBT cards by March 31

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services reminds all Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) clients to get new EBT cards by March 31, 2010, to ensure uninterrupted access to their monthly food benefits.

“This deadline is fast approaching. It’s a very simple process,” said Arlene Dura, program director for SNAP. “Clients need to visit their local county social service office to get a new card, if they haven’t already done so. If a client is unable to travel to the office, they can call and request a new EBT card, which can be mailed to them.”

The EBT card was changed because the North Dakota Department of Human Services has signed a contract with eFunds FIS to process all EBT transactions effective March 16, 2009. The Department previously contracted with JP Morgan. The Federal Food and Nutrition Service limits the number of years a state can hold a contract with one vendor and requires states to re-bid the service.

The new EBT card features a picturesque scene of the State Capitol and replaces the tan-colored North Dakota wheat field card. The old card won’t work for purchasing food at participating grocery stores or other retailers in the state after March 31.

Individuals who have questions about the transition to the new EBT cards should call the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program toll free at 1-800-755-2716 or their local county social service office.

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