

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Help available for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamp) clients who lost food due to power outages from Easter weekend storm

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakotans who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits have 10 days to seek replacement benefits if they lost food due to power outages from the Easter weekend storm. They must report their loss to a county social service office by April 12.

The weekend storm caused power outages affecting over 7,000 individuals in an area that includes Burleigh, Grant, McHenry, McLean, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan, Sioux, Ward, and Wells counties, as well as the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

N.D. Department of Human Services officials work with county social service offices to issue replacement benefits if participating households have their food supplies damaged or destroyed due to power outages or other disaster situations.

“Benefits were just issued on April 1. We know that many clients buy groceries soon after they receive their monthly benefits, and many probably made food purchases for their Easter dinners. We want affected households to know help is available,” program director Arlene Dura said.

Dura said that after county social service offices verify a food loss, replacement SNAP benefits are issued to affected clients’ special debit cards, called EBT cards. Clients use EBT cards at participating grocery stores and other retailers to purchase food items.

Following similar widespread power outages from January storms, the department issued replacement benefits totaling \$42,823 to 201 affected SNAP households.

Individuals with questions can contact their county social service office or the N.D. Department of Human Services at 800-755-2716.

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