

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 9, 2011**

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Notification deadline extended for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program clients who lost food due to recent power outages

BISMARCK, N.D. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture has granted North Dakota's request to extend the deadline to apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) replacement benefits. Program clients living in the state's western counties who were affected by power outages after the April 30 – May 1 storm, now have until May 27, 2011, to report any food losses to a county social service office.

“Many households were without power for several days, and we want to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to report any food loss they may have experienced,” said Arlene Dura, the program administrator for the N.D. Department of Human Services.

Replacement benefits help program clients whose food supplies are damaged or destroyed due to power outages or other disasters. USDA typically has a 10-day reporting requirement.

SNAP clients in Adams, Billings, Bowman, Burke, Divide, Dunn, Golden Valley, Hettinger, McKenzie, Mercer, Mountrail, Renville, Slope, Stark, Ward, and Williams counties, as well as the Fort Berthold Reservation may qualify if the weekend storm-related power outages affected them.

Dura said that in April 2011 about 4,800 households received SNAP benefits in the 16 affected counties.

After county social service offices verify a food loss, replacement benefits can be issued to affected clients' debit cards, called EBT cards. Clients use EBT cards at participating grocery stores and other retailers to purchase food items.

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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