

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Help Available for Current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Clients in Ward County Who Were Affected by Flooding

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services announced today that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved its request to replace benefits for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) clients affected by recent flooding in Ward County.

Replacement benefits help clients whose food supplies were damaged or destroyed due to flooding. Agency officials will automatically replace 70 percent of the original June benefit issued to about 433 households identified as living in the mandatory evacuation areas of Burlington, Foxholm, Minot and Sawyer. These benefits will be available starting Saturday, July 2, 2011.

For example, if a household received \$100 in SNAP benefits in June and has been affected by flooding in Ward County, that household will automatically receive \$70 in replacement benefits.

“The flooding in Ward County has affected the income of many people and has caused other financial hardship,” said Carol K. Olson, executive director of the department. “Providing replacement benefits will help affected individuals as they begin to recover from this disaster.”

Program participants who do not receive the automatic replacement benefit, but think they may qualify because they suffered food loss as a result of a power outage or flooding, should contact the Ward County Social Service office to report food loss by July 31, 2011.

In June 2011, 2,229 low-income Ward County households received SNAP benefits to purchase food at approved grocery stores or other authorized food vendors.

Individuals with damaged, destroyed, or misplaced EBT cards can obtain replacement cards from county social service offices.

Individuals with questions can contact Ward County Social Service Office at 701-852-3552, or the N.D. Department of Human Services at 1-800-755-2716 or 701-328-2328.

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