

# **NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services**

## **600 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck ND 58505-0250**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 13, 2011**

**Contacts:** Arlene Dura, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Director, 701-328-2064; Heather Steffl, Public Information Officer, 701-328-4933; or LuWanna Lawrence, Assistant Public Information Officer, 701-328-1892

### **Ward County Residents Have More Time to Apply for Disaster Food Benefits** *Federal Agency Extends Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Deadline*

BISMARCK, N.D. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved North Dakota’s request to extend the deadline for Ward County residents affected by recent flooding to apply for the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). It was originally set to end on July 13, but has been extended to July 22, 2011.

The program is for people who are not current program clients; they must now apply by July 22 to receive this one-time disaster food benefit.

The program is intended to help those who experienced disaster-related losses and lived or worked in Ward County at the time of the disaster. A qualifying family of three can receive up to \$526 toward the purchase of groceries or other food products including hot foods at USDA-approved food stores.

As of Tuesday, July 12, 2011, 488 Ward County households with 1,284 persons had qualified for an average of \$456 in food assistance benefits. To date, \$222,400 in benefits have been issued.

Carol K. Olson, executive director of the North Dakota Department of Human Services said, “We appreciate the immediate response we received from the USDA to offer this extension so more people can receive help during this time of recovery.”

People can apply at the Ward County Social Service Office, 400 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave. NW in Minot. The county will have extended office hours July 19-21 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. to help people apply. Regular office hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. People who evacuated from Ward County can apply at the county social service office where they are temporarily living.

To determine if a household qualifies, county employees add together a family’s net income and any resources they can easily access like cash on-hand, checking and savings. After that is determined, they deduct any flood-related expenses to see if a household meets the **qualifying income** limits. Details are online at <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/info/news/2011/7-5-dsnap-flyer-ward-county.pdf>.

Qualifying people will leave the office with a specialized debit card called an EBT card, which they can use at any approved grocery store or other authorized food vendor.

-MORE-

# Ward County Residents Have More Time to Apply for Disaster Food Benefits

People should bring this information to the county social service office:

- Photo ID, utility bill or other mail with identifying information and address, or signed statement of identity provided by another person;
- If available, current paycheck stubs and receipts for disaster expenses.

## Qualifying income levels set by USDA:

Household Size	Income Limit	Maximum Benefit
1	\$1,503	\$200
2	\$1,815	\$367
3	\$2,126	\$526
4	\$2,449	\$668
5	\$2,787	\$793
6	\$3,124	\$952

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.

###