

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services

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Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamp) clients urged to act quickly: Have 10 days to seek replacement benefits after weekend storms

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakotans who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and lost food due to power outages from the weekend storms that struck the state June 19-21, 2015, may be able to get replacement benefits. They have to act quickly and report their loss to a county social service office within 10 days of the loss.

Replacement benefits are available to any SNAP household who experienced a power outage of four hours or more.

“We want affected households to know that there is help available to replace perishable food items lost due to power outages,” said North Dakota Department of Human Services program director Arlene Dura.

After a county social service office verifies a food loss, replacement SNAP benefits are issued to affected clients’ debit cards, called EBT cards. Clients use EBT cards at participating grocery stores, farmers markets, and other retailers to purchase food items.

Dura said the program will replace the amount of the loss, up to a household’s June 2015 benefit amount. A household that reports a food loss of \$100 and received a \$100 food assistance benefit in June 2015 would receive \$100 in replacement benefits.

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

Individuals with questions can contact their county social service office or call the department at 800-755-2716. County information is online at <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/countysocialserv/>.

In May 2015, the SNAP served 53,185 qualifying low-income North Dakotans. The federally-funded program tends to serve mainly low-income children, often in single-parent families, people with disabilities, and seniors on fixed incomes.

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