

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

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Contacts: LuWanna Lawrence at 701-328-1892 or Heather Steffl at 701-328-4933

Help available for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamp) clients who lost food due to power outages from Tuesday's storm

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakotans who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and lost food due to power outages from the Tuesday, June 13, 2017, storm that struck northeast North Dakota, may be able to get replacement benefits. Program clients living in Benson, Eddy, Grand Forks, Griggs, Pembina, Ramsey, Traill, and Walsh counties must report their loss to a county social service office during regular business hours through June 23, 2017.

Replacement benefits are available to any SNAP household who experienced a power outage of four hours or longer and lost food purchased with SNAP benefits.

“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 SNAP 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 approved retailers to purchase food items.

Dura said the program will replace the amount of the loss, up to the amount a household received as a benefit in June. For example, if a household reports a food loss of \$100 and the household received benefits of \$100 in June, \$100 in replacement benefits would be issued once the loss is verified.

Human Services officials work with county social service offices to issue replacement SNAP 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 or ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888. County contact information is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/countysocialserv/.

In May 2017, the SNAP served 53,672 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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