

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 2009

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Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamp) clients urged to act quickly: *Have 10 days to seek replacement benefits after a flood-related food loss*

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakotans who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamp) benefits and lost food due to flooding or related power outages, may be able to get replacement benefits, but they must act quickly. They have to report their loss to a county social service office within 10 days of the loss.

Program director Arlene Dura said, “We do not know how many of the 23,600 low-income households receiving benefits have been affected by flooding. We want Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program clients to know that help is available if they lost food, but timing is everything. They must report their food loss within 10 days of the loss.”

Dura said food losses typically occur because a freezer is in a basement that floods destroying contents, a pantry area floods, or power is turned off and contents of a refrigerator or freezer are subsequently damaged or destroyed.

A special waiver that gave program clients a longer period to report food losses expired April 13. Thirteen households responded, reported their losses and signed affidavits. Together those households received a total of \$4,185 in federally-funded replacement benefits. Replacement benefits are issued on the program’s specialized debit card, called an EBT card, and can be used at grocery stores and other retailers to purchase food items only.

Individuals with questions about their benefits can contact any county social service office or the N.D. Department of Human Services at 800-755-2716.

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