NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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Help available for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamp) clients who lost food due to power outages from Oct. 4-5 weekend storm

BISMARCK, N.D. – North Dakotans who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and reside in the southwestern region of the state have 10 days to seek replacement benefits <u>if they lost food due</u> to power outages from the Oct. 4-5 weekend storm. They must report their loss to a county social service office during normal business hours within 10 calendar days of the loss.

The weekend storm damaged power poles and lines and caused power outages affecting rural residents of Adams, Bowman, Hettinger, and Slope counties and the western edges of Grant, Morton, and Sioux counties.

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

"Benefits were just issued on October 1. We know that many clients buy groceries soon after they receive their monthly benefits," said program director Arlene Dura. "We want affected SNAP participants in the impacted areas to know help is available."

Dura said that after county social service offices verify a food loss, replacement SNAP benefits are issued to affected clients by Electronic Benefit Cards (EBT). Clients use EBT cards at participating grocery stores and other retailers to purchase food items.

Individuals with questions can contact their county social service office. Contact information is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/countysocialserv/. Individuals can also contact the N.D. Department of Human Services at 800-755-2716 or ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888.

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