

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 13, 2017**

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

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

BISMARCK, N.D. – Traill County residents who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and lost food due to power outages from the July 11 storm may be able to get replacement benefits. Program clients must report their loss to Traill County Social Services during regular business hours through July 21, 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.

After staff from Traill County Social Services verifies the 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.

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

Individuals with questions can contact Traill County Social Services, 114 W. Caledonia Ave., Hillsboro, N.D., at 701-636-5220 or ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888.

North Dakota Department of 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.

In June 2017, SNAP served 220 qualifying low-income Traill County households. The federally-funded program tends to serve mainly low-income children, often in single-parent families, people with disabilities, and seniors on low, fixed incomes.

###