

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | July 9, 2020

Help is available for SNAP clients impacted by July 8 power outages in Anamoose area

BISMARCK, N.D. – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) clients who live in Anamoose, N.D. and the surrounding area and who lost food due to storm-related power outages on July 8, 2020, can request replacement benefits. They must report their food loss by July 18, 2020, during regular business hours, to the human services zone office that serves their area, formerly known as the county social service office.

SNAP replacement benefits are available to SNAP households that lost food purchased with SNAP benefits due to a power outage lasting more than four hours or other disaster situation.

“We want SNAP households to know that help is available to replace perishable food items that were lost due to power outages from the recent storm,” said Michele Gee, director of the Economic Assistance Division for the North Dakota Department of Human Services. “Households are urged to contact their human service zone office to get the process started as soon as possible because replacement benefits are offered on a time-limited basis.”

Gee said after a zone office verifies a power outage-related food loss, replacement SNAP benefits are issued to affected clients’ debit cards, called EBT cards. Clients then can use their EBT card 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.

People with questions should contact their local human service zone office or call the department at 800-755-2716 or 711 (TTY). Zone office contact information is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/countysocialserv/.

SNAP is a federally-funded nutrition assistance program that serves low-income children, often residing in single-parent families, people with disabilities, seniors on fixed incomes and others who meet income and other eligibility criteria.

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