

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | June 9, 2021

Help is available for SNAP clients impacted by June 4-6 power outages in the Mayville-Portland area

BISMARCK, N.D. – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) clients who live in Mayville and Portland, N.D. and the surrounding area and who lost food due to storm-related power outages June 4-6, 2021, can request replacement benefits. Individuals must report their food loss by June 16 during regular business hours, to a human service zone office, formerly known as county social services. The Agassiz Valley Human Services Zone has an office in Hillsboro.

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.

“Help is available to SNAP households to replace perishable food items lost due to the power outage,” said Deborah Kramer, SNAP program administrator for the North Dakota Department of Human Services. “Households are urged to contact a human service zone office to get the process started as soon as possible because replacement benefits are offered on a time-limited basis.”

Kramer said the process is easy. SNAP clients simply report their loss and sign a request form. Once the human service zone office verifies a power outage-related food loss, replacement SNAP benefits are issued to affected clients’ 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 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.

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 assistance program that provides nutritional support for low-income families, seniors and people with disabilities living on fixed incomes and other individuals and households with low income.

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