

THE DISASTER SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (DSNAP)

WHAT IS DSNAP?

After a major disaster, food programs may be available. The Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) provides food assistance to households that have been financially affected by a disaster. DSNAP may be available in areas that have been approved for Individual Assistance after a Disaster Declaration.

DSNAP provides eligible applicants funds on an electronic benefits transfer (EBT) card, which may be used as any other credit or debit card to pay for food and groceries at most grocery stores.

Each state has its own process to apply for DSNAP. Visit www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-directory to find the location and information of your state's and county's SNAP office.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR DSNAP?

Anyone living in the declared disaster area may apply for DSNAP benefits. You may still be eligible for DSNAP even if you don't already receive regular SNAP benefits.

If you apply for DSNAP benefits, you must be able to show that you have lost income or have experienced extra costs due to the disaster.

- Extra costs may include home and property repair costs, medical expenses, temporary shelter, evacuation or traveling costs, or funeral expenses.
- Costs such as car notes, rent, or mortgage payments are not considered disaster-related expenses.

Eligibility for DSNAP benefits depends on household income and size.

HOW DO PEOPLE APPLY FOR DSNAP BENEFITS?

State agencies will release information online, or local media or press. This information will include how to apply, the days of operation, and how to determine eligibility.

You may be able to apply

- In person: at your county's DSNAP operation center, or
- By phone: by calling your state's SNAP office.

Your state's SNAP office may offer pre-registration before your application day.



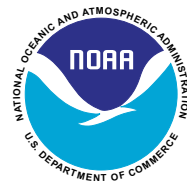
TO APPLY, YOU MAY NEED TO PROVIDE:

Check on your state's SNAP office website.

- The name, date of birth, and social security number of each household member.
- The applicant's driver's license or state-issued ID.
 - If you do not have a driver's license or state-issued ID, you may bring another form of ID, such as a work or school ID, birth certificate, voter's registration card, U.S. passport, U.S. military discharge papers, Matricula Consular ID, or an ID for health benefits or other social service program.
- Proof of monthly household income (last four paycheck stubs, proof of child support, proof of unemployment or Social Security benefits, retirement checks, etc.).
 - If you are self-employed, you will need to provide your income tax returns, quarterly tax or sales records, or personal wage records.
- Proof of available household resources (checking or savings account statements, amount of cash, etc.).
 - Amount of the disaster-related expenses that you have experienced (home or property repairs, shelter and evacuation expenses, medical or funeral expenses, etc.)

If your application is approved, your DSNAP benefits will be determined based on your household size.

Most times, a decision letter will be mailed to the mailing address listed in the application. If your application is denied, you may be able to appeal the decision. Information and instructions on how to appeal can be found on your state's or county's SNAP website.



RESOURCES

Visit our project website: laseagrant.org/resources/disaster-aid

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research was conducted by Louisiana Sea Grant Law & Policy Program with support from the Coastal Response Research Center and the NOAA Disaster Response Center.

Authors: H. Withers, S. Hanson, N. Pace, M. Daigle, C. Franze, and D. Seibert.

All information current as of October 2024.

LEARN
ABOUT OUR
RESOURCES
HERE

