



# 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.

## WHO CAN APPLY FOR DSNAP?

Anyone living in the declared disaster area may apply for DSNAP 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 IN LOUISIANA?

- In person: at your parish's DSNAP operation center on your designated application day, or
- By phone: by calling the LAHelp-U Customer Service Center at 1-888-524-3578.

Visit [www.dcf.la.gov/DSNAP](http://www.dcf.la.gov/DSNAP) to find information about your DSNAP operation center schedule and designated application days for your parish. Your designated application day will likely be based on the first letter of your last name.

To simplify the application process, you may pre-register before your application day at [www.dcf.la.gov/preregister](http://www.dcf.la.gov/preregister) or [getagameplan.org](http://getagameplan.org), or by calling the LAHelp-U Customer Service Center.



## TO APPLY, YOU WILL NEED TO PROVIDE:

- The name, date of birth, and social security number of each household member.
- The applicant's driver's license or state-issued ID (the LA Wallet app may be used to verify these).
  - 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. A decision letter will be mailed to the mailing address listed in the application. If your application is denied, you may appeal within 90 days of the decision. Information and instructions on how to appeal can be found in your decision letter.



### RESOURCES

Find your disaster declaration at FEMA's disaster declaration website: <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/declarations>

Find Louisiana's disaster response information at The State of Louisiana's Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness: <https://gohsep.la.gov>

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*All information current as of October 2024.*

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