

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
600 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck ND 58505-0250**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 18, 2007**

**Contacts:** Michele Gee, Food Stamp Unit Senior Policy Analyst, 701-328-1633 or 1-800-755-2716, Heather Steffl, Public Information Officer, 701-328-4933, or Ed Christ, Assistant County Director, Grand Forks County Social Services, 701-787-8535

## **Disaster Food Stamp Benefits Available for Northwood Residents**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The United States Department of Agriculture approved North Dakota's application for the Disaster Food Stamp Program for individuals residing in the city limits of Northwood on August 26, 2007, when the tornado struck. This allows North Dakota to waive most food stamp eligibility requirements for affected individuals and speeds up the application process. The program will provide one month of benefits to qualifying individuals.

Northwood residents must apply in person for the Disaster Food Stamp Program at the Grand Forks County Social Service Office, 151 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Grand Forks, between September 18 and September 21, 2007. A county social service employee will be on-site at the Northwood Disaster Recovery Center through September 21 to answer questions and assist with transportation needs.

When applying, Northwood residents must bring the following information to the county social services office: a photo ID, utility bill or other mail containing identifying information and address, or a signed statement of identity provided by another person. Applicants should also provide paycheck stubs, and the names, ages, and birth dates of all household members including social security numbers. Benefits are based on income and household size. A household of three with net income up to \$1,935 (after certain disaster-related expenses) between August 26 and September 24, 2007, could qualify for \$408 in disaster food stamp benefits.

Northwood households already receiving regular food stamp benefits may be eligible for additional benefits. Those individuals may contact their county caseworker or go to the Northwood Disaster Recovery Center.

States can apply for the Disaster Food Stamp Program if they receive a Presidential Disaster Declaration with an Individual Assistance Declaration. North Dakota received an Individual Assistance Declaration on September 13.

Individuals with questions about the program can contact the Grand Forks County Social Service Office at 701-787-8535, or the N.D. Department of Human Services at 1-800-755-2716.

###