

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Disaster Food Stamp Program for Northwood residents ends Sept. 21

BISMARCK, N.D. – Northwood residents may qualify for help with their grocery needs, but they have to act quickly. The United States Department of Agriculture-approved **Disaster Food Stamp Program ends Friday, Sept. 21, 2007.**

“One family has applied so far. People are understandably focused on rebuilding. Disaster Food Stamp benefits can help eligible households save on food costs while they deal with other recovery-related expenses,” said Department of Human Services Food Stamp Director Arlene Dura.

Individuals residing in the city limits of Northwood on Aug. 26, 2007, when the tornado struck, may qualify for one month of food assistance benefits, she said. 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 Aug. 26 and Sept. 24, 2007, could qualify for \$408 in disaster food stamp benefits. Benefits are issued on EBT debit cards.

Northwood residents must apply in person at the Grand Forks County Social Service Office, 151 S. 4th St., Grand Forks. A county social service employee will be at the Northwood Disaster Recovery Center through Sept. 21 to answer questions and assist with transportation needs.

The federal government approved North Dakota’s application on Sept. 17. This allowed North Dakota to temporarily waive most food stamp eligibility requirements for affected individuals and speeds up the application process.

Program applicants should bring a photo ID, utility bill or other mail listing name and address, or a signed statement provided by another person to confirm identity. Applicants should also provide paycheck stubs, and the names, ages, and birth dates of all household members including social security numbers. **For information, 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.**

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