

**NEWS** from the North Dakota Department of Human Services  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 27, 2009**

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**Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamp) clients impacted by flooding can request replacement benefits until April 13**

BISMARCK, N.D. – Federal officials have approved the North Dakota Department of Human Services' request to provide replacement benefits for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program clients impacted by flooding in the 34 counties listed in the federal disaster declaration. To receive the extra help, clients must report their loss to a county social service office and sign an affidavit by April 13, 2009.

Program director Arlene Dura said, "The U.S. Department of Agriculture is making this extra help available because flooding and power outages in affected counties have damaged or destroyed food supplies for some clients."

Dura said the federal government has set the replacement benefit period of 20 days starting with the March 24 Presidential Declaration date and ending April 13, 2009. The replacement program is "dollar for dollar," she said. An affected household that requests replacement benefits and received a \$75 food assistance benefit in March would receive an additional \$75 issued to their EBT account.

To receive the benefit, individuals must be current food assistance clients, must have experienced a food loss, and must be a resident of counties included in the Presidential Disaster Declaration. These counties are: Adams, Barnes, Benson, Billings, Burleigh, Cass, Cavalier, Dickey, Dunn, Emmons, Foster, Grand Forks, Grant, Hettinger, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, McKenzie, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Nelson, Oliver, Pembina, Ramsey, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Sioux, Stark, Stutsman, Walsh and Williams.

Dura said program clients with damaged, destroyed, or misplaced EBT cards can obtain replacement cards from a county social service office. Individuals with questions about their benefits can contact the N.D. Department of Human Services at 800-755-2716.

In February 2009, the federally funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program served 51,500 qualifying low-income North Dakotans.

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