



Disaster Food Assistance Program

When an area has been declared a disaster by the president of the United States, eligible residents may be able to receive one month's worth of emergency food assistance benefits through the Disaster Food Assistance program. It may be possible for you to receive these benefits even if you are not already eligible for "regular" food assistance benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP or food stamps.

Who is eligible for the Disaster Food Assistance program?

To be eligible for Disaster Food Assistance, you must have lived in the affected area at the time of the disaster, plan on purchasing food during the benefit period and meet certain income requirements. These requirements take into account your take-home income, other resources and disaster-related expenses. In addition, you also must have experienced one of the following:

- Food damaged by the disaster event or spoiled as a result of a power outage
- Damage to or destruction of your home or self-employment business
- Disaster-related expenses that you don't expect to be reimbursed for during the benefit period, such as home or business repairs, temporary shelter expenses, evacuation expenses, home or business protection, disaster-related personal injury, or funeral expenses
- Lost or inaccessible income, or a delay in receiving your income for half the benefit period
- Inaccessible cash resources – for example, if your bank closed because of the disaster

How can I apply?

You must go to your county department of job and family services and show identification for yourself, such as a photo ID, two documents that verify your identity and residency, or a signed affidavit from another person attesting to your identity. You also must provide the names and birthdays of all other members of your household.

How are benefits distributed?

If you are found eligible for Disaster Food Assistance, your benefits will be provided on an Ohio Direction card, a debit card that can be used to purchase food. Unused disaster assistance benefits will be removed from the Ohio Direction card after 120 days.

For More Information

Email TANF-FSTA@jfs.ohio.gov or call (866) 886-3537, option 6. Reporters should direct all inquiries to (614) 466-6650.