

2.2 Sample Press Releases

DHS ANNOUNCES DISASTER FOOD ASSISTANCE (SNAP) RELIEF FOR BENTON, CLAY, FAULKNER, GARLAND, LINCOLN, PULASKI, RANDOLPH, AND SALINE COUNTIES

LITTLE ROCK – The Department of Human Services has announced counties eligible to receive SNAP Disaster Assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, has approved the following counties for the Disaster SNAP (DSNAP) as a result of the April 23rd severe storms and tornados: **Benton, Clay, Faulkner, Garland, Lincoln, Pulaski, Randolph, and Saline Counties**. Any household that resided within one of the designated counties at the time of the April 23rd severe storms and tornados and suffered disaster losses may be eligible to receive temporary DSNAP assistance. DSNAP benefits are provided via an electronic debit-like card and can be used to purchase food items at grocery stores and other authorized retailers.

Residents in any of the designated counties may be eligible if the household experienced at least one of the following conditions as a direct result of the **April 23rd, 2011 storms and tornados**:

- Damage to or destruction of the home or self-employment business.
- Loss or inaccessibility of income including a reduction or termination of income or a significant delay in receiving income due to disaster related problems.
- Disaster-related expenses (home or business repairs, temporary shelter, evacuation, etc) that are not expected to be reimbursed during the disaster benefit period.

Please note that residents seeking assistance may apply beginning Tuesday, May 10, 2011 through Wednesday, May 18th 2011 for the Disaster SNAP. To apply, please contact your local DHS office.

Households applying for Disaster SNAP must actually have lived in the disaster area at the time of the storms and must have suffered loss or damages.

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DISASTER SNAP PROGRAM BENEFITS AVAILABLE FOR RECENT FLOOD VICTIMS

Affected residents in Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Hardin, Jackson, Lawrence, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Saline, White and Williamson counties may be eligible

CHICAGO – Residents who lived or worked in Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Hardin, Jackson, Lawrence, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Saline, White and Williamson counties between April 19 and May 18, 2011 may be eligible for disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, known in Illinois as [LINK](#). The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) have approved disaster SNAP benefits for flood-affected residents of these counties.

Residents of affected counties who would not be eligible under the regular SNAP rules may qualify temporarily if their business, home or belongings were damaged or destroyed and they have un-reimbursed disaster-related expenses, or if they have a loss or reduction of income as a result of the flooding. Also, residents who currently receive SNAP may be eligible for additional benefits.

Flood victims may apply for disaster SNAP benefits at the following IDHS Family Community Resource Centers (FCRC) locations beginning **Friday, June 24 through Thursday, June 30, 2011** from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. each day:

Alexander

1401 Washington Ave .
Cairo, IL 62914-1810
Phone: (618) 734-0762
TTY/Nextalk: (866) 383-2345

Pulaski

422 S. Blanche St.
Mounds, IL 62964-1108
Phone: (618) 745-9411
TTY/Nextalk: (866) 740-3951

Franklin

1602 N. Main St.
Benton, IL 62812-1900
Phone: (618) 439-4351
TTY/Nextalk: (866) 324-4802

Randolph

870 Lehmann Dr.
Chester, IL 62233-0307
Phone: (618) 826-4559
TTY/Nextalk: (866) 876-7176

Jackson

342 North St.
Murphysboro, IL 62966-2295
Phone: (618) 687-1705
TTY/Nextalk: (866) 325-5149

Lawrence

RR 1, Box 418
Lawrenceville, IL 62439-9796
Phone: (618) 943-2334
TTY/Nextalk: (866) 326-0247

Massac

2301 Metropolis St.
Metropolis, IL 62960-1399
Phone: (618) 524-2631
TTY/Nextalk: (866) 326-9638

Perry

120 S. Town Shopping Center
DuQuoin, IL 62832
Phone: (618) 542-2901

Saline/Gallatin

320 E. Raymond St.
Harrisburg, IL 62946-2120
Phone: (618) 253-7161
TTY/Nextalk: (866) 847-6174

White

1112 Oak St.
Carmi, IL 62821-1344
Phone: (618) 382-4685
TTY/Nextalk: (866) 740-3928

Williamson

1107 W. DeYoung Suite 20
Marion, IL 62959-4403
Phone: (618) 997-6591
TTY/Nextalk: (866) 740-3927

Pope/Hardin

106 N. Market St., PO Box 130
Golconda, IL 62938-0130
Phone: (618) 683-2921
TTY/Nextalk: (866) 383-1866

The local IDHS offices will determine eligibility for victims based on available income, minus unreimbursed disaster-related expenses. All resources except cash on hand and bank accounts will be excluded from the eligibility determination. A qualifying two-person family with net monthly income of less than \$1,815 would receive \$367, and a one-person household with net monthly income of less than \$1,503 would receive \$200. Most benefits will be available within three days of the date of application.

Individuals receiving regular SNAP benefits that were affected by the disaster may also apply for this special program. They may qualify for additional SNAP benefits to bring their benefit level up to the maximum benefit amount for the month of the disaster.

Starting Friday, flood victims in Massac County currently receiving SNAP benefits may apply for disaster SNAP benefits online at www.dhs.state.il.us. Applicants should click on the Disaster SNAP link then on the Currently Receive SNAP – Massac County Only link. Users should then follow the directions on the Active SNAP Clients in Massac County – Online Request for Disaster SNAP Benefits Web page to file their request for additional benefits.

Applicants must bring photo proof of identity and should bring a driver's license or other picture ID. Applicants also must bring a document that verifies their home address or job in the disaster area prior to the disaster.

SNAP benefits can be used to purchase food for human consumption, but cannot be used to buy alcoholic beverages, tobacco or non-food items. Benefits must be used within 90 days. Persons who purposely provide wrong information on a SNAP application may be denied benefits and legal action may be taken.

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