

Your Logo

Your Legal Services Program Name

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – FOOD STAMPS

Who Is Eligible for Food Stamps After a Disaster

After a disaster, there are 3 different kinds of food stamps that you may be able to get:

Replacement Food Stamps to replace lost or spoiled food;

Disaster Food Stamps because you were caught in the disaster; and

Expedited Food Stamps because you are in immediate need.

Depending on your circumstances and the kind of food stamps that are made available, you may be eligible for only one kind, or you may be eligible for two kinds, all three, or none.

Replacement Food Stamps

1. I am getting Food Stamps, but all my food spoiled when the power went out during the disaster. What can I do?

You may be eligible for Replacement Food Stamps to help you replace the spoiled food or to buy hot food from the grocery store. Please contact your case worker at your local DCF office or call DCF's toll-free number at 1-866-762-2237 for more information on how to get Replacement Food Stamps.

Disaster Food Stamps

1. What are Disaster Food stamps?

The federal government can decide to give out Disaster Food Stamps when grocery stores are open for business again, after a disaster has kept food from being delivered to them.

2. Who is eligible for Disaster Food Stamps?

That depends on what the government decides after each disaster. Households in the disaster area may be eligible for Disaster Food Stamps even if they would usually not be eligible for Food Stamps.

3. How do I apply for Disaster Food Stamps?

Call DCF's toll-free number at 1-866-762-2237 to find out where to apply, or contact your local Disaster Recovery Center. You may also be able to apply on-line at www.dcf.state.fl.us/ess/. Be sure to tell DCF that you are applying for Disaster Food Stamps.

Expedited Food Stamps

1. What are Expedited Food Stamps?

Expedited Food Stamps are for very needy people, and are given within 7 days after they apply. When you apply for regular Food Stamps, you will be asked questions to see if you qualify for Expedited Food Stamps.

2. How do I know if I am eligible for Expedited Food Stamps?

To be eligible for Expedited Food Stamps you must show either that:

- A. Your household has less than \$150 in monthly income before taxes and \$100 or less in cash and in bank accounts; or
- B. You are a migrant or seasonal farmworker household with \$100 or less in cash and you will not be getting any more income during the month you apply; or
- C. Your household's monthly rent or mortgage and utilities are more than your combined monthly income before taxes and the amount you have in cash and bank accounts.

3. Are immigrants eligible for Expedited Food Stamps?

Many immigrants including refugees, asylees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, lawful permanent residents (green card holders) with 40 quarters of work in the U.S., members of federally recognized Indian tribes, veterans, and members of the armed services are eligible.

4. What verification do I need to get Expedited Food Stamps?

You must be able to verify that you are who you say you are by showing documents with your name on them, or by having someone say they know you.

5. Do I have to meet any other eligibility requirements?

You will be asked for verification of your immigration status, your social security number, your income and your expenses at the time you apply. But even if you cannot give all of the verification, you will be eligible for Expedited Food Stamps within 7 days after you apply.

6. If I do not qualify for Expedited Food Stamps, can I still get regular Food Stamps?

Yes, your Food Stamp application must be processed and you must receive a written decision within 30 days stating whether you are eligible, and the amount of benefits you will get. If you are denied benefits, but you believe you are entitled to them, contact the Legal Services office closest to you.

For more information or assistance, please contact our nearest office.

Your Legal Services Office Contact Information