

Florida's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps put food on the table of Floridians year-round. But after a disaster, Florida's SNAP program usually goes above and beyond to help participants in these four ways:

For people who currently receive SNAP benefits:

1. Replacement SNAP

DCF may give people benefits to replace food they bought with SNAP but lost in a disaster. Often, DCF replaces SNAP benefits automatically, without people having to ask. This is what usually happens in a big disaster that affects a lot of people.

If the disaster is not widespread — or happens to just one person or a few families — DCF probably will not replace benefits automatically. In those cases, people must ask DCF for replacement benefits. Requests for replacement SNAP must usually be made within 10 days of the loss.

Normally, DCF has an electronic form on its website to ask for replacement benefits after a big disaster. Check their website at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/> to see. But you can also download a paper form from DCF's website at <https://myflfamilies.com/forms>. The form is called "CF-ES 3515, Nonreceipt Affidavit/Replacement Authorization." The form comes in English, Creole, and Spanish. You can get the form online, by calling DCF at (850) 300-4323, or by going in person to a DCF service center.

DCF will replace benefits that were lost up to the total amount of the benefit issued for the month. DCF may want to verify your loss through local officials, the Red Cross, or by a home visit. People who are eligible for replacement should get their benefits no later than 10 days from the date they asked for it.

2. Supplemental SNAP

DCF may give extra SNAP to recipients who weren't already getting the maximum amount when the disaster hit. If that happens, DCF will issue extra benefits to participants up to the maximum allotment for their household size. This gives people who have disaster costs a little extra to spend on food while recovering.

People are normally able to get both replacement SNAP (for the food they lost) and supplemental SNAP (extra SNAP).

3. Hot Food

DCF usually lets people buy hot food with SNAP after a disaster. Normally, people can't use SNAP to purchase hot food, like deli chicken. But letting people buy hot food after a disaster helps households who don't have the power to cook. After a disaster, the grocery store should be able to tell you if you can use your SNAP for hot foods.

4. Early Issuance

Florida may automatically issue SNAP benefits to people earlier than scheduled if a disaster, like a hurricane, is coming. This lets people stock up on nonperishable food for the storm.

Additional Support:

- Questions about SNAP: Call DCF at (850)-300-4323 or visit their website: myflfamilies.com.
- Assistance with hearing and/or speech: Call Florida Relay at 711 or 1-800-955-8771
- Legal advice with a SNAP problem: Go to floridalawhelp.org or call 211 or 411 to find a local legal aid office that may be able to help.

This is basic information about how SNAP in Florida usually helps after disasters, like hurricanes or tornadoes. In future disasters, the state may do things differently.