

# Food Assistance After a Disaster

## Who Is Eligible for Food Assistance After a Disaster

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

- Replacement Food Assistance to replace lost or spoiled food;
- Disaster Food Assistance because you were caught in the disaster; and
- Expedited Food Assistance because you are in immediate need.

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

Here is a description of the three kinds of Food Assistance and how you can qualify.

## Replacement Food Assistance

1. I am getting Food Assistance, but all my food spoiled when the power went out during the disaster. What can I do?
  - You are eligible for Replacement Food Assistance to help replace the spoiled food. To apply for Replacement Food Assistance, fill out a Food Assistance Replacement Authorization form # CF-ES 3515. Get this form at DCF's web site at <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/DCFForms/Search/OpenDCFForm.aspx?FormId=597> or by calling DCF or your caseworker. Return the form to DCF by mail, fax or in person within 10 days of your loss. Contact information for DCF offices is online: <https://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/map.shtml>

## Disaster Food Assistance

1. What is Disaster Food Assistance?
  - The federal government can decide to give out Disaster Food Assistance 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 Assistance?
  - That depends on what the government decides after each disaster. Households in the disaster area may be eligible for Disaster Food Assistance even if they would usually not be eligible for Food Assistance.
3. How do I apply for Disaster Food Assistance?
  - Call DCF's toll-free number (1-866-762-2237) to find out where to apply, or contact your local Disaster Recovery Center. You may also apply using the "Food for Florida" link: <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/fff/index.shtml>

## Expedited Food Assistance

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

2. How do I know if I am eligible for Expedited Food Assistance?
  - o To be eligible for expedited Food Assistance you must show either that:
    - Your household has less than \$150 in monthly income before taxes and \$100 or less in cash and in bank accounts; or
    - You are a migrant or seasonal farmworker household with less than \$100 in cash and you will not be getting any more income during the month you apply; or
    - 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 Assistance?
  - o 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, members of the armed services, and U.S. citizens are eligible.
4. What verification do I need to get expedited Food Assistance?
  - o 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?
  - o 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 Assistance within 7 days after you apply.
6. If I do not qualify for expedited Food Assistance, can I still get regular Food Assistance?
  - o 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 to which you are entitled. If you are denied benefits, but you believe you are entitled to them, contact the Legal Services office closest to you.

For more information, you can contact:

Legal Aid Service of Broward County, Inc. 954/765-8950 or  
Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida, Inc. 954/736-2400