



## **DISASTER FOOD ASSISTANCE OVERVIEW**

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### **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.

Households in the disaster area may be eligible for Disaster Food Assistance even if they would usually not be eligible for 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.

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### **Replacement Food Assistance**

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: <http://www.myflfamilies.com/serviceprograms/access-florida-food-medical-assistance-cash/locate-service-center-yourarea>.

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### **Expedited Food Assistance**

Expedited Food Assistance is for very needy households and is provided within 7 days after applying. When you apply for regular food assistance, you will be asked questions to see if you qualify.

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.

***Can immigrants qualify for expedited Food Assistance?***

Refugees, asylees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, lawful permanent residents (green cardholders) 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

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.

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.

***If I do not qualify for expedited Food Assistance, can I still get regular Food Assistance?***

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.

If you have been denied public benefits or food assistance, including disaster or regular food stamps, and wish to appeal the decision, OR if your benefits have ended or stopped,  
**call Gulfcoast Legal Services at  
727-821-0726 for an appointment.**