

# Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

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### Q1: What is D-SNAP?

**A1:** D-SNAP provides temporary food assistance for households affected by a natural disaster. D-SNAP provides benefits to households impacted by a disaster. To be eligible for D-SNAP, a household must live in the defined disaster area, have been affected by the disaster, and meet certain D-SNAP eligibility criteria.

### Q2: What areas are included in D-SNAP?

**A2:** Residents impacted by the disaster that live in the eligible areas may be eligible to apply for D-SNAP. For more information about D-SNAP, visit the Iowa Department of Health and Human Service (Iowa HHS) website: [hhs.iowa.gov](https://hhs.iowa.gov).

### Q3: Why do some counties have D-SNAP and some do not?

**A3:** Only counties that receive a Presidential Individual Assistance declaration can operate D-SNAP. The state must request and receive approval from USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to operate a D-SNAP for those counties.

### Q4: How can I apply for D-SNAP?

**A4:** You can apply for D-SNAP if you live in one of the eligible areas. Visit the Iowa HHS website ([hhs.iowa.gov](https://hhs.iowa.gov)) for the in-person application sites and application phone number. You only need to apply either in-person or by phone, not both.

### Q5: I receive regular SNAP benefits. Can I apply for D-SNAP?

**A5:** Yes, if you lived or worked in the eligible counties and were negatively affected by the disaster, you can apply for D-SNAP benefits. You need to complete the ***SNAP Recipient Request for Disaster*** form.

### Q6: What information do I need to provide to apply for D-SNAP?

**A6:** You will need the following information:

- Identification for the head of household is required
- Address at the time of the disaster
- Income you received or expect to be received for each household member from the impacted area
- Money that you had available for each household member (cash or money in checking and/or savings)
- Disaster related expenses paid out of pocket

### Q7: Do I need to have a driver's license or social security number (SSN) to apply for D-SNAP?

**A7:** One adult in the household must provide proof of identity. There isn't a requirement for specific documents that must be used. You do not need to have a social security number to apply for D-SNAP benefits.

## Q8: What is a disaster-related expenses?

**A8:** A disaster-related expense is anything you had to pay for out of pocket or expect to pay out of pocket because of the disaster. If you were paid back for an expense you paid out of pocket during the approved time frame, you can't use that as a disaster-related expense for D-SNAP purposes. A few examples of disaster-related expenses include:

- Repairing damage to your home or self-employment business
- Items you used to clean up your home and property
- Replacing personal or household items lost due to the disaster
- Storage expenses
- Propane or gas you need when the electricity goes out
- Tools needed to repair your home and/or property
- Medical expenses due to the disaster
- Boarding a pet
- Recurring expenses such as mortgage, rent, car payments etc. do not count as disaster related expenses.

## Q9: What is the D-SNAP income limit?

**A9:**

Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$2,085
2	\$2,514
3	\$2,942
4	\$3,380
5	\$3,845
6	\$4,308
7	\$4,736
8	\$5,165

## Q10: How is “household” defined under D-SNAP?

**A10:** D-SNAP household members are people who were living together and purchasing and preparing food together at the time of a disaster. D-SNAP households do not include people who are temporarily staying together due to the disaster.

## Q11: How many months of D-SNAP will eligible households get?

**A11:** Eligible households will get one month's worth of D-SNAP equal to the maximum allotment for their household size.

**Q12: How long does it take my household to get their D-SNAP benefits if its approved?**

**A12:** If approved, your household may receive their benefit card the same day. Households who apply over the phone have the option of picking up their card at a designated site or receiving it by priority mail.

**Q13: How does my household use our D-SNAP benefits to get groceries?**

**A13:** D-SNAP benefits are provided to eligible households through Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards. Your household's D-SNAP allotment is posted to the EBT cardholder's D-SNAP account. Households can use their EBT card to purchase groceries at participating stores and farmers markets in the same way you use a debit card.

**Q14: How long do I have to use my D-SNAP benefits?**

**A14:** D-SNAP benefits need to be used within nine months from when you receive the card.

**Q15: What can I purchase with D-SNAP benefits?**

**A15:** Any food like

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, poultry, and fish
- Dairy products
- Breads and cereals
- Other foods such as snack foods and non-alcoholic beverages

**Q16: Can I buy hot food with the D-SNAP card?**

**A16:** Prepared hot foods can be purchased if the D-SNAP Program is approved to provide this benefit.

**Q17: What if I don't have transportation to the D-SNAP site**

**A17:** If you are not able to apply in-person, you can apply by phone.

**Q18: I don't speak English. How can I apply**

**A18:** If you speak Spanish, Spanish-speaking workers are available at the D-SNAP sites and you can apply by phone. Translation services for other language are available for both on site and by phone.

For additional information about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) visit <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/food-assistance/snap> or apply for SNAP and other benefits online at <https://hsservices.iowa.gov/apsspssp/ssp.portal>.