

Belit Stockfleth, Food Stamp and Prevention
Program Manager

Authorized Signature

Number: SS-IM-07-031

Issue Date: 12/13/2007

Topic: Food Benefits

Subject: Question and Answer for the Disaster Food Stamp Program (DFSP)

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> | County Mental Health Directors |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> | Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Children, Adults and Families | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | County DD Program Managers | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify): |

Message: The FS Policy Unit has responded to several questions regarding the DFSP. We want to share these questions and answers with the other offices.

The policy regarding replacing food lost in any disaster (power loss, flooding, fire, etc) is located in the Food Stamp Manual, section G, subsection 17. Specific instructions relating to the December 2 storm are in SS-IM-07-027.

The policy regarding the DFSP is located in the Food Stamp Manual, section I, subsection 8. Specific instructions for implementing this approved disaster program are in SS-PT-07-027.

1. Q – A FS household of 5 has countable income above the countable income limit for FS but below the 185% FPL, do we grant categorical eligibility for DFSP?
A – DFSP is very simple. You do not need to compare the gross income to the FS income limits and categorical eligibility is not applied. Instead, compare the net (take home) income to the DFSP income table. This family may be eligible for regular FS. Please discuss that possibility and let them know how they can apply for that program also.
2. Q – A FS household lost much of their food due to the power outage. They reported the lost food and a value of \$65. Their FS allotment is \$125, so the \$65 replacement was issued. Are they eligible for DFSP?
A – Maybe. They are not eligible for DFSP based on lost food because the food was replaced by the FS program. However, they may be eligible for DFSP based on one of the other criterion.
3. Q – A FS household lost much of their food due to the flood. They reported the

lost food with a value of \$200. Their FS allotment is \$150, so a \$150 replacement was issued. Are they eligible for DFSP?

A – They are eligible for DFSP based on lost food because not all of the food was replaced by the FS program.

4. Q – Some new DFSP households appear to be eligible for regular FS, do they need to complete a FS application, interview, etc before an eligibility determination is made?

A – Yes, the DFSP households wanting regular FS will need to complete the FS application, interview and the 30 day application process. The household will not be eligible for regular FS in December because the DFSP benefits count as FS benefits. The household will have already received their full month allotment under DFSP.

5. Q – Is a TANF JOBS Plus household eligible for DFSP and how do we issue the supplement?

A – If they meet the criteria for DFSP, they are eligible. To issue the supplement to the household, remove the PLS household type and the hold code. Add the DRP household type and issue a supplement using the ID or ED issuance coding. The next day remove the DRP coding and restore the JOBS Plus coding. You may also need to issue an active EBT card to the household. .

6. Q – A household contains persons who are not US citizens. Are they eligible for DFSP?

A – They can be eligible for DFSP. The DFSP does not have a citizenship or alien status eligibility requirement. A non citizen may be eligible for disaster assistance. .

7. Q – Client filed a FS application in late November. It is currently pending information needed for an eligibility determination. The client is now applying for DFSP. What action to take?

A – Accept the DFSP application and make an eligibility determination on the DFSP program. Receipt of DFSP benefits will make the household ineligible for regular FS in December. At the end of the 30 day application period, deny the regular FS application if the pended information is not received. If the pended information is received, determine the amount of prorated benefits the household is eligible to receive in November and issue as restored benefits. Notify the client they are not eligible for regular FS in December and recertify for 1/1/08.

8. Q – When we determine a new FS applicant is eligible for DFSP for 12/07 and they want ongoing FS for 1/08, they complete a 415F (FS application). If need be, the offices will pend for 1/08 benefits. The question is if they receive DFSP benefits for 12/07 are we looking at 12/07 income or 1/08 income for the 1/08 FS issuance?

A – In the interview, determine the expected income for January.

9. Q – Can a household be eligible to receive both DFSP and commodity foods being distributed in a disaster community?

A – No, both the DFSP and commodity foods are distributed under USDA. If both programs are offering benefits in a community, the household will need to

choose either the commodities or the DFSP. They are not eligible for both programs.

10. Q – Should the DRP household type code be placed on DFSP denials?

A – Yes, the coding instructions for the DFSP include how to code denial actions. The DFSP needs to be coded on the denials for reporting purposes.

If you have any questions about this information, contact:

Contact(s):	Anne Hilgers	(503) 945-6105	
	Dawn Myers	(503) 945-7018	
	Eliza Devlin	(503) 947-5105	
	Rosanne Richard	(503) 945-5826	
	Sandy Ambrose	(503) 945-6092	
	Sarah Lambert	(503) 945-6220	
Phone:		Fax:	
E-mail:			