

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 24, 2011

USDA Approves Disaster Food Assistance for Escambia County Tornado Victims

BREWTON – The Escambia County Department of Human Resources (DHR) has received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to operate a Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP).

To qualify for the benefits, residents of Escambia County must apply in person or have an **authorized representative** apply for them. Applicants must have disaster damage to their homes, loss of food, expenses related to protecting their homes, or lost income as a result of the disaster **and** meet income limits composed of net household income plus available liquid resources (cash or money in the bank).

Current food assistance recipients may apply for supplemental food benefits at the D-Snap location. They will be required to complete an affidavit stating that they had disaster damage to their homes, loss of food, expenses related to protecting their homes, or lost income as a result of the disaster. Qualified recipients will receive an additional amount that gives them the maximum monthly benefit allowed for their household size.

Current food assistance recipient who already received the maximum benefit for the month of May do not qualify for the supplemental program.

Individuals/families must have been a resident of Escambia County on April 15, 2011 to apply for assistance in Escambia County.

Escambia County DHR will be accepting applications Monday June 27, 2011 between 12:30p.m. and 7:00p.m., and Tuesday June 28, 2011 between 7:00a.m. and 7:00p.m. at the Greater Mount Calvary Church, 14655 Hwy 29 in Brewton Al.

Individuals and families applying for the D-SNAP must submit some form of identification, such as a photo I.D. or documents that contain your name and/or address to verify identity and residence in the disaster-designated county. However, if a person does not have identifying documents due to storm damage, they can bring someone to verify their identity.

Individuals/families that qualify will receive a one-time benefit based on household size. After completing the application, qualified individuals and families will be issued an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card. Benefits can be accessed using the EBT card after they are posted to the account. Benefits will be available within four (4) days after the application is filed. Current recipients who qualify will have the supplemental benefits added to their EBT card electronically.

All states operate the food assistance program and D-SNAP according to regulations set forth by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service.