

Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) – pending approval from USDA/FNS

DSNAP is an eligibility-based program for any resident not currently receiving regular SNAP benefits. If approved, the applicants will receive a DSNAP Electronics Benefits Transfer (EBT) card that can be used like a debit card to purchase food from any retailer authorized to accept the EBT card.

- Virtual process for all residents in approved parishes
 - Pre-registrations are completed prior to the interview either by the applicant on the DCFS website or by calling the LAHELPU call center and having a customer service rep handle
 - Once DSNAP opens for the parish, applicants must call in and be interviewed
- Prior to opening the application process, DCFS must obtain approval from USDA/FNS to operate. These things are needed for approval:
 - Proof that services have been restored to the majority of the parish, including:
 - Electricity
 - Cellular/phone service
 - Internet
 - Mail (USPS)
 - Grocery Stores up and running with stocked shelves
- Other Federally run food distributions must end when DSNAP begins for that parish
 - Federal PODS
 - Household Distribution
 - Parish sponsored PODS can continue to operate
 - Any faith-based or community sponsored feeding events can continue

Phases for DSNAP:

Plan is to operate 3 phases of DSNAP beginning Monday, September 20, 2021 with each phase running six days and the next phase starting the following Monday. Each phase will be operated for specific parishes as approved by USDA/FNS. Determination of which parishes are in each phase will be based on availability of services listed above and severity of damages in the parish. All 25 IA approved parishes will be served in one of the three phases. The request for approval must include which parishes are assigned to each phase. Once determined, parishes will be advised of which phase their parish will be assigned for adequate communication to the residents.

Find more information about DSNAP at www.dcf.la.gov/dsnap.

DCFS will communicate with pre-registration with pre-registrants via text, social media and traditional media.

Those interested in DSNAP should text LADSNAP to 898-211 for more information.