

ECONOMIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION | COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

**Disaster Cash Assistance Program – DCAP**

**Key Messages**

**May 2021**

**WHY:**

Beginning April 19, Washington residents can once again apply through the Department of Social and Health Services for emergency cash assistance to help meet their immediate needs. DSHS received additional funding and a new order from Governor Inslee to reinstate this temporary program to help Washingtonians through this unprecedented time of hardship.

**WHAT:**

This temporary cash assistance program is available to people who are not eligible for other cash assistance programs. Unlike Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, people without children and who are not pregnant, may be eligible as well as families who meet the income and resource limits of the program. This cash assistance is available to Washington residents regardless of citizenship status and does not require applicants to provide a Social Security number.

New legislation states that people who have received DCAP benefits previously and are still in need may reapply each month the program is active. The benefit amount depends on household size, income and need, and ranges from a maximum of \$363 for a single person to a maximum of \$1,121 for a household of eight or more people.

This is a temporary program and will end when the Governor's order expires or when all the available funds are disbursed, whichever is sooner. (HB 1386 awards \$12 million that needs to be used by June 30. The **order expires June 15.**)

**HOW:**

This program requires an application and interview. People can apply for DCAP online at [WashingtonConnection.org](http://WashingtonConnection.org) and then call the Customer Service Contact Center at 877-501-2233 to complete the required interview. People can also call 877-501-2233 to complete the entire application process over the phone. Due to much higher than normal call volumes, people are asked to call before 11 a.m. and to keep in mind that the busiest call times are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Customer Service Contact Center is open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Once approved, people will receive their DCAP benefits on an existing Electronic Benefit Transfer or EBT card, or a new EBT card will be sent via U.S. mail.

**FAQS:**

The following [FAQs](#) are found on our DSHS website at [DSHS.wa.gov](http://DSHS.wa.gov) in the news release section and the [Policy changes in response to COVID-19](#).

**How often can I get this help?**

Based on the current order from the governor, the DCAP program may be offered monthly. A new application and interview are required for each request during this time.

**How long will this program be available?**

This is a temporary program and will end when the state of emergency ends, or when all the funds are disbursed, whichever is sooner.

**Can I receive a DCAP cash benefit even if I don't have kids living with me?**

Yes.

**Can I get DCAP and other cash programs at the same time?**

No. DCAP is for households that don't qualify for other DSHS cash programs.

**What is the income limit for this program?**

The net income limit (after deductions) for all income expected in the month of application is based on your household size. See chart below:

Household Size	Income limit after deductions
1	\$363
2	\$459
3	\$569
4	\$670
5	\$772
6	\$877
7	\$1,013
8+	\$1,121

The net income limit is normally 90% of the above amounts. In order to help more people during the COVID pandemic, the amount was temporarily increased to match the maximum payment standard.

**Is there a resource limit for this program?**

During the current emergency, up to \$6,000 of your available resources are exempt. Equity up to \$10,000 in a vehicle is also exempt.

**What information do I need for my interview?**

During the interview, we'll discuss all income you expect for the month, what resources you have available, what deductions we can make and which expenses you need help with.

**What type of expenses can I get help with?**

DCAP covers the following types of needs: Shelter costs, utilities, clothing, minor medical care, household supplies and transportation costs for work. DCAP can also help with food, only if you aren't eligible for ongoing food benefits.

**What is the maximum DCAP benefit amount?**

The benefit amount depends on your household size, income and need. The maximum benefit is listed below:

Household Size	Maximum Benefit Amount
1	\$363
2	\$459
3	\$569
4	\$670
5	\$772
6	\$877
7	\$1,013
8+	\$1,121

**Do I need to be a U.S. citizen? What if I do not have a Social Security number?**

You are not required to be a U.S. citizen or to have certain immigration status to receive DCAP. Any DCAP payment is excluded from the public charge test. You also are not required to provide a Social Security number to receive DCAP.

**Will my immigration information be shared with federal immigration authorities (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services)?**

DSHS will not verify immigration information with USCIS for those who are only eligible for DCAP. Those individuals or families who are eligible for other cash or food assistance programs will have their immigration status verified by DSHS through the SAVE system under its contract with USCIS.

**How do I receive the benefits?**

If you are approved for DCAP, your benefits will be issued to your Electronic Benefits Transfer, or EBT, card. If you do not have one, we will provide you a card. Your card will be sent to you in the mail, unless you have a general delivery address.