

USDA Announces Approval of D-SNAP, Other Flexibilities for Tennessee Tornado Disaster Areas

WASHINGTON, March 13, 2020 – Low-income Tennesseans recovering from recent tornadoes could be eligible for assistance from the USDA’s Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP), announced today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Deputy Under Secretary for USDA’s Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services Brandon Lipps said that households who may not normally be eligible under regular Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) rules may qualify for D-SNAP – if they meet the disaster income limits and have qualifying disaster-related expenses.

“USDA is committed to helping Tennesseans get back on their feet,” said Brandon Lipps, Deputy Under Secretary for USDA’s Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services. “The D-SNAP program USDA is announcing today is an important step in that direction, as folks work through the aftermath of the powerful tornadoes that swept the area.”

To receive assistance through D-SNAP, a household must either live or work in an identified disaster area, have been affected by the disaster, and meet certain eligibility criteria. Approved households will receive one month of benefits, equal to the maximum amount for a SNAP household of their size, to meet their temporary food needs as they settle back home following the disaster. Tennessee will share information about D-SNAP application dates and locations through local media.

The timing of D-SNAP varies with the unique circumstances of each disaster, Lipps said, but always begins after commercial channels of food distribution have been restored and families are able to purchase and prepare food at home. Before operating a D-SNAP, a state must ensure that the proper public information, staffing, and resources are in place.

Although current SNAP households in the identified areas are not eligible for D-SNAP, they may request supplemental SNAP benefits to raise their allotment to the maximum amount for their household size for one month if they don’t already receive that amount.

Additionally, USDA has approved other flexibilities to help Tennesseans in the affected areas cope with the aftermath of the tornadoes, including:

- A waiver to allow SNAP participants to buy hot foods and hot food products prepared for immediate consumption with their benefits at authorized SNAP retailers statewide through April 3, 2020, and
- A waiver of the 10-day reporting timeframe for impacted residents currently participating in SNAP to request replacement benefits, extending the deadline to March 24, 2020.

Individuals seeking more information about this and other available aid should dial 2-1-1 (for callers in Tennessee) or 1-866-311-4287. For more information about Tennessee SNAP, visit <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/for-families/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap.html>.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers 15 [nutrition assistance programs](#) that leverage American's agricultural abundance to ensure children and low-income individuals and families have nutritious food to eat. FNS also co-develops the [Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#), which provide science-based nutrition recommendations and serve as the cornerstone of federal nutrition policy.

<https://emergency.cdc.gov/coping/index.asp>

CORNAVIRUS INFORMATION

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/managing-stress-anxiety.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/resource-center/freeresources/print/print-family.htm>

<https://www.wtsp.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/scholastic-learn-at-home-free-virtual-learning/67-e81d6078-cd4f-4e3e-8feb-cd4a2851e5f5>

<https://mommypoppins.com/family/coronavirus-pandemic-update-indoor-activities-resources-kids>

<https://www.123homeschool4me.com/101-fun-things-to-do-in-covid-19-isolation/>

Non-screen activities you can do at home

Pobble

25 ideas!

1 How many different words can you make from the letters in this sentence, below? Grab a pencil and paper and write a list!

'Learning from home is fun'

2 Thank a community hero. Think of someone that helps you in some way and write a short letter to thank them.

Thanks!

3 Get building! You could build a Lego model, a tower of playing cards or something else!



4 Can you create your own secret code? You could use letters, numbers, pictures or something else! Can you get someone else to try and crack it?



5 Start a nature diary. Look out of the window each day and keep note of what you see. Birds, flowers, changes in the weather, what else?

6 Hold a photo session. Use a camera or a mobile phone to take some snaps. What will you photograph? Your pets or toys perhaps?

7 Build a reading den. Find somewhere cosy, snuggle up and read your favourite book!



8 Use an old sock to create a puppet. Can you put on a puppet show for someone?



9 Make a list of all the electrical items in each room of your home. Can you come up with any ideas to use less electricity?

10 Design and make a homemade board game and play it with your family.



11 Do something kind for someone. Can you pay them a compliment, make them something or help them with a task?



12 Can you create a story bag? Find a bag and collect items to go in it that relate to a well-known story. If you can't find an item, you could draw a picture to include.

13 List making! Write a list of things that make you happy, things you're grateful for or things you are good at.



14 Design and make an obstacle course at home or in the garden. How fast can you complete it?



15 Can you invent something new? Perhaps a gadget or something to help people? Draw a picture or write a description.



16 Keep moving! Make up a dance routine to your favourite song.



17 Write a play script. Can you act it out to other people?



18 Read out loud to someone. Remember to read with expression.



19 Write a song or rap about your favourite subject.



20 Get sketching! Find a photograph or picture of a person, place or object and sketch it.



21 Junk modelling! Collect and recycle materials such as yoghurt pots, toilet rolls and boxes and see what you can create with them.

22 Draw a map of your local area and highlight interesting landmarks.



23 Write a postcard to your teacher. Can you tell them what you like most about their class?

24 Draw a view. Look out of your window and draw what you see.



25 Get reading! What would you most like to learn about? Can you find out more about it in books? Can you find a new hobby?