



## EMERGENCY FOOD STAMPS FOR HURRICANE IKE VICTIMS

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) received approval today from the federal government to provide Emergency Food Stamps to victims of Hurricane Ike. Families must have limited income to qualify, but will only need to provide proof of identity and residence in one of the 29 counties declared a federal disaster area.

### Does my family qualify for Emergency Food Stamps?

If you live in one of the 29 counties declared a disaster area, and your family’s monthly income does not exceed the amounts listed below, and you have less than \$5,000 in liquid resources (i.e., savings/checking account), then you may qualify for two months of Emergency Food Stamps:

Household Size	Gross income may not exceed:
1	\$1,430
2	1,925
3	2,420
4	2,915
Each additional person	+495

You do **not** need to provide proof of your income or resources to get the two-month emergency benefit. However, if you still need assistance after two months, you will be required to verify your income in order to continue receiving Food Stamps. You **will** need to show proof of identity (i.e., driver’s license or other government ID) and proof of residence in one of the 29 counties declared a disaster area.

### How do I apply for Emergency Food Stamps?

You can apply by visiting any of HHSC’s local benefits offices. Call 2-1-1 or visit [www.hhsc.state.tx.us/medicaid/OfficeLocator.asp](http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/medicaid/OfficeLocator.asp) to find the office nearest you. If you qualify, you should receive benefits immediately. If the office nearest you is still closed due to the storm (Houston and Beaumont/Port Arthur areas), you can download an application at [www.dads.state.tx.us/forms/H1010-B/H1010-B.pdf](http://www.dads.state.tx.us/forms/H1010-B/H1010-B.pdf) and fax it to 1-877-447-2839.

### Families who already have a Lone Star Card will automatically get replacement benefits.

Families in disaster areas (plus Leon and Rusk counties) who already receive Food Stamps will get replacement benefits. HSHC will automatically replace a portion of your September benefits to help replace food that power outages or flooding may have damaged or destroyed. These benefits will be uploaded to the family’s Lone Star Card. **It is not necessary for these families to visit an eligibility office or file a new application to replace damaged food.** If you don’t have your Lone Star Card, you can get a new card by visiting a local HHSC office.

### Food Stamp recipients may also use Food Stamps to purchase hot, ready-to-eat food.

These items, which are not normally allowed under federal rules, will help families who are unable to return to their homes immediately or lack power to cook their meals.