

NEWS RELEASE



California Department of Social Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 2, 2018

Contact: Michael Weston
(916) 657-2268

FOOD BENEFITS AVAILABLE FOR CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE AND/OR MUDSLIDE VICTIMS

SACRAMENTO - The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) today announced that individuals and families impacted by the wildfires and/or mudslides in Santa Barbara or Ventura Counties may be eligible to receive one month of Disaster CalFresh food assistance.

A family of four with available monthly income and resources up to \$2,755 per month may be eligible to receive up to \$640 in food assistance through California's Disaster CalFresh program. Households must apply for this assistance between Tuesday, February 6 and Friday February 9, 2018, and Monday, February 12 to Wednesday, February 14, 2018. In most cases, Disaster CalFresh food assistance benefits will be available within three days of the date of application.

"Disaster CalFresh food assistance is intended to help those negatively impacted by the wildfires and mudslides," said CDSS Director Will Lightbourne. "We stand with these hard-working communities as they continue to recover. Giving families the ability to meet the basic need of food is a big step in that effort."

The United States Department of Agriculture approved California's request for Disaster CalFresh food assistance in response to the wildfires and mudslides in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. The program is known nationally as the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or D-SNAP.

Wildfire and/or mudslide victims may apply for CalFresh disaster food assistance in-person at local social service agency offices throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura. Households unable to apply in person may designate an authorized representative to apply on their behalf and should contact their local social services agency directly for more information on this option (telephone information below).

Disaster CalFresh benefits will be provided via an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, which is like a debit card that can be used to purchase food items at grocery stores and other authorized retailers.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Individuals and families who lived or worked in Santa Barbara or Ventura may be eligible for Disaster CalFresh food assistance if the household experienced at least one of the following as a direct result of the wildfires and/or mudslides:

- Damage to or destruction of the home or self-employment business;
- Loss or inaccessibility of income, including a reduction or termination of earned income or a significant delay in receiving income due to disaster related problems; or
- Disaster-related expenses (e.g. home or business repairs, temporary shelter, evacuation, etc.) that are not expected to be reimbursed during the disaster benefit period

Households already participating in CalFresh are not eligible to receive Disaster CalFresh food assistance, but may be eligible to receive supplemental benefits based on their household size. Households already participating in CalFresh may contact their local social service agency to request supplemental benefits by phone or in person. Some households already participating in CalFresh may also automatically receive supplemental benefits based on the direct impact, such as mandatory evacuations, of the wildfires or mudslides in their community.

WHEN TO APPLY

Individuals and families affected by the wildfires and/or mudslides who are seeking food assistance may apply for Disaster CalFresh beginning February 6, 2018 to February 9, 2018, and February 12, 2018 to February 14, 2018 by visiting a social service agency in Santa Barbara or Ventura and can find additional application sites and more information online at <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/Disaster-Help-Center>.

In addition, individuals or families with new needs for assistance due to the wildfires and/or mudslides may always apply for regular CalFresh benefits and CalWORKs cash aid at their local social service agency or online at www.benefitscal.com.

Santa Barbara County Locations:

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| Department of Social Services 234 Camino Del Remedio Santa Barbara, CA 93110 Monday-Friday 7am to 5pm | Department of Social Services 1100 W Laurel Ave Lompoc, CA 93436 Monday-Friday 7am to 5pm |
| Department of Social Services 2125 S Centerpointe Pkwy Santa Maria, CA 93455 Monday-Friday 7am to 5pm | Carpinteria Family Resource Center 5241 8th Street Carpinteria, CA 93013 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Tuesdays |

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Ventura County Locations:

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| East County Community Service Center 2900 N. Madera Rd. Ste. 100 Simi Valley, CA 93065 8:00AM to 5:00PM Monday through Friday | Oxnard Community Service Center 1400 Vanguard Drive Oxnard, CA 93033 8:00AM to 5:00PM Monday through Friday |
| Santa Clara Valley Community Service Center 725 E. Main St Santa Paula, CA 93060 8:00AM to 5:00PM Monday through Friday Open until 7:00 PM on Thursday 2-8-18 | Thousand Oaks Community Service Center 80 E Hillcrest Drive Ste. 200 Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 8:00AM to 5:00PM Monday through Friday |
| Ventura Community Service Center 4651 Telephone Rd Ventura, CA 93003 8:00AM to 5:00PM Monday through Friday Open until 7:00 PM on Wednesday 2-7-18 Open until 7:00 PM on Thursday 2-8-18 | Moorpark Community Service Center 612B Spring Rd. Ste 301 Moorpark, CA 93021 8:00AM to 5:00PM Monday through Friday |
| Fillmore Community Service Center 828 Ventura St. Ste 200 Fillmore, CA 93015 8:00AM to 5:00PM Monday through Friday Open until 7:00 PM on Wednesday 2-7-18 | |

QUESTIONS: CALL YOUR COUNTY

Santa Barbara County Service Center: 844-289-4682

Ventura County Service Center: 888-472-4463

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