



United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service

Western Region

Reply to
Attn of: FSP – Administrative Notice 05-01 October 1, 2004 FS-2-GEN

Subject: **FSP – Revised Disaster Food Stamp Program Income Guidelines for FY 2005**

To: ALL WESTERN REGION FOOD STAMP PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Attached are the revised disaster Food Stamp Program income guidelines for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005. This replaces pages 1 and 2 of Exhibit E in your Federal Disaster Food Stamp Program Handbook.

If you have any questions, please contact your State Program Officer.

/s/

KAREN C. JIRSA, Policy Officer
Food Stamp Program
Western Region

Requirement	The household...
Residency	<p>must have been living in the disaster area at the time of the disaster.</p> <p>may be eligible if it is temporarily living outside of the disaster area but within the State at the time of the disaster.</p>
Purchase Food	must plan on purchasing food during the benefit period.
Adverse Affect	<p>must have experienced at least one of the following adverse effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss of food, coupons or ATPs • damage to or destruction of the household's home or self employment business (e.g., complete destruction, loss of roof or walls, destruction of heating equipment). • disaster related expenses not expected to be reimbursed during the benefit period (e.g. home/business repairs, temporary shelter expenses, evacuation expenses, home/business protection, disaster related personal injury including funeral expenses). • loss or inaccessibility of income including reduction or termination of income or a delay in receipt of income for half the benefit period. • inaccessible liquid resources (e.g., banks are closed.)
Income and Resource Test	Total income received during the disaster benefit period, plus accessible liquid resources , minus certain disaster-related expenses shall not exceed the disaster gross income limit

Household Size	Disaster Gross Income Limit ¹	Maximum Allotment
1	1,298	149
2	1,563	274
3	1,828	393
4	2,093	499
5	2,377	592
6	2,664	711
7	2,929	786
8	3,194	898
Each Additional Member	+265	+112

¹These figures include all necessary calculations (e.g., for a 1 person household: maximum net monthly income = \$776; standard deduction = \$134; maximum shelter deduction = \$388; 776 + 134 + 388 = 1,298)

Terms Relating to Income and Resource Test (Page 2 of 3)

Term	Definition	
Disaster Gross Income Limit	the maximum gross income limit for the DFSP equals the sum of the maximum monthly net income limit PLUS the maximum standard income and shelter expense deductions.	
Shelter Expense Deduction	the maximum excess shelter expense deduction from the regular FSP, until that deduction is eliminated.	
Income	the total take-home pay of household members that is expected to be received during the disaster benefit period. Does not include disaster assistance payments expected to be received during the benefit period from Federal, State or Local governments or disaster assistance agencies.	
Take-home Pay	includes the wages a household actually receives after taxes and all other payroll withholding, public assistance payments or other unearned income, and net self-employment income.	
Accessible Liquid Resources	includes cash on hand and all funds in checking and saving accounts; it does NOT include IRA accounts, disaster insurance payments, or disaster assistance received or expected to be received during the benefit period, and payments from Federal, state or local government agencies or disaster assistance organizations.	
Deductible Disaster Expenses	expenses that the household has paid or expects to pay during the disaster benefit period ; however, if the household receives or anticipates receiving a reimbursement for these expenses during the disaster period, only the net expense is deductible.	
Maximum Disaster Benefit	an allotment equal to the maximum monthly allotment established for the regular Food Stamp Program for the appropriate household size.	
	If a household...	Then...
	is certified under the regular Program	the allotment equals the household's regular monthly allotment PLUS a supplement amount to bring the household's disaster benefit up to the maximum disaster food stamp allotment for the household size.
was participating in the regular Program, received a replacement allotment, and was later determined eligible for the DFSP	it would receive only a supplement amount to bring the household's allotment up to the maximum disaster allotment for the appropriate household size.	

Verification

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Applicant's Information	Status	How to Verify
Identity	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo ID, or • Two documents that verify identity and residency
Residency	Where Possible	Utility bills, tax bills, insurance policies or bills.
Household Composition	If questionable	After taking the application, the EW can ask applicant to orally list the names, ages, and birthdays of household members.
Loss or inaccessibility of liquid resources and countable income	Where possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain a list of banks that were closed due to the disaster. • Check with the State Banking Commission.
Food Loss	If questionable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check disaster impact maps for likely damage to household. • Check with power company. <p>NOTE: An extended power outage can cause food spoilage.</p>