



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION
Economic Services Administration
Post Office Box 45440 Olympia WA 98504-5440

Aug. 7, 2026

Dear interested parties and community partners

Washington has experienced multiple wildfires and related power outages caused by high temperatures and high winds that occurred on or after July 15, 2026. As a result, many households affected by these disasters might have lost food that was purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Food Assistance Program (FAP) food benefits.

In most cases, federal regulations require losses like these to be reported to the department within 10 days of the loss. DSHS has been approved for two waivers to the 10-day time limit by USDA Food and Nutrition Administration (FNA):

1. The first waiver extends the previous waiver for seven counties, including Tribal communities within identified counties (**Benton, Chelan, Ferry, Lincoln, Okanogan, Whitman, and Yakima**), affected by wildfires and related power outages caused by high temperatures and high winds that began **July 15, 2026**. The waiver is in effect through **Friday, Aug. 14, 2026**.
2. The second waiver is approved for four counties including Tribal communities within identified counties (**Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Walla Walla**) affected by wildfires and related power outages caused by high temperatures and high winds that started on **Aug. 1, 2026**. The waiver is in effect through Friday, **Aug. 21, 2026**.

We continue to monitor wildfires and other disasters statewide and will work with FNA to obtain additional waivers as needed.

Households in approved areas can report a loss of **food purchased with SNAP or FAP benefits verbally or in writing**. To report a food loss, a household member must contact DSHS in one of these ways:

- In person at their local Community Services Office
- At a [DSHS Mobile Office](#)
- By phone at 877-501-2233
- Mailing to P.O. Box 11699, Tacoma, WA 98411

Before replacing SNAP or FAP benefits lost in a household disaster, DSHS must receive a signed statement or verbal attestation of the loss.

The signed statement needs to include the head of household's name, date of birth or client identification number. Households can submit this information in either of the following ways:

- The [DSHS Form 12-008](#) DSHS Claim of Food Lost in a Household Disaster
- A written statement that includes the same required information
- A verbal attestation of the loss can be completed by phone

Replacement benefits are limited to the amount of SNAP or FAP benefits used to buy the food that was lost, or the benefit issued for **July or August**, whichever is less.

If you have questions, please contact Policy Program Manager Mike Rybak at Michael.Rybak1@dshs.wa.gov.

With respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brice Montgomery', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brice Montgomery, Director
Community Services Division, ESA
Department of Social and Health Services