



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –  
Department of Social Services  
Brenda Jackson, Director  
e-mail: [Director@ccdssnc.com](mailto:Director@ccdssnc.com).

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## **Storm Victims Have Until Tuesday to Apply for Disaster Food Benefits**

Fayetteville, NC – The US Department of Agriculture approved the state Department of Health and Human Services to provide Disaster Food and Nutrition Services benefits to people affected by the April 16 tornadoes.

The Department of Social Services began accepting applications for the program on Friday, April 29. The five-day application window closes Tuesday, May 3. DSS staff worked Saturday and Sunday accepting applications.

**Hours are today and Tuesday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the DSS building at 1225 Ramsey St.**

The program is open to individuals not normally eligible for Food and Nutrition Services benefits. Eligibility is based on available income and resources.

Residents in the affected areas of Cumberland County who are not currently receiving Food and Nutrition Services benefits may qualify for temporary disaster assistance for a one month period if:

- Your home or self-employment property was damaged or destroyed
- You have disaster related expenses
- You lost wages
- You had food loss as a result of a power outage of at least eight hours

Those applying for Disaster Food and Nutrition Services benefits are asked to provide:

- proof of their identity
- proof of residency, such as a utility bill
- Social Security numbers and dates of birth for all members of their household.

DSS Director Brenda Jackson reports that between Friday and Sunday, 1,463 people visited DSS and \$392,563 in benefits was issued in replacement and disaster food benefits.

- 840 applications were taken since Friday for Disaster food benefits; 666 were accepted for a total of \$286,669 in benefits.
- 558 requests were approved this weekend for replacement benefits for people who already enrolled in the food and nutrition program.

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