

Reminder on Replacement FoodShare due to Household Misfortune

- Many households, especially in the southeastern part of the state, were impacted by the winter storms last week. Because of this, DHS has been putting out reminders about replacement FS benefit policies. I'll give an overview of that policy today.
- Replacement FS benefits can be issued when food that was purchased with FS benefits is destroyed in or as a result of a household misfortune or natural disaster.
- The most common misfortune reported by members is a power outage lasting 4+ hours, however, misfortunes or natural disasters can include, but are not limited to, things such as house fires, appliance failures, utility disconnections and floods.
- The benefit replacement amount is the lesser of the member's claimed loss, or, up to the full allotment that was issued for the month of the loss. If a member is eligible for replacement benefits, and the food loss occurs prior to the member's regular monthly issuance, the replacement will be processed under the prior month's issuance.
- A request for replacement FS must be made within 10 calendar days of the date the food was destroyed. The initial report can be made verbally or in writing. To complete the request, the household must complete, sign and submit the [Request for Replacement FoodShare Benefits | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#) form to their IM agency. This form must be submitted within 10 days of the reported loss.
- This form is available in multiple languages and members can submit the form to make their initial request for benefits. The member does not need to contact their IM agency first before submitting the Request for Replacement FS Benefits form.
- Each replacement request is evaluated on a case-by-case.
- Typically, the IM agency already has verified information or can obtain verification. For example, an IM agency may be able to verify a member's outage through communications with a power company, or can gather verification through publicly available sources, such as through a news article.
- The value/cost of lost food does not need to be verified.
- If a household is determined eligible for replacement FS, they will receive a notice informing them of the supplement amount and reason for the issuance. If a household is determined ineligible for replacement FS, they will receive a denial notice.
- To assist members that lost food due to a misfortune, you can have the Request for Replacement FoodShare benefits ready and on hand. You can also help assist members in submitting the completed form through their access account by uploading a copy of the completed form, by fax, or by mail. Members can also complete the request form or drop it off at an IM agency.
- The member may submit verification of the loss with the request form. To expedite the replacement request process, you can advise members to submit verification right away.
- Information about FoodShare Replacement Benefits available due to recent power outages in Wisconsin has been added to the DHS FoodShare News webpage, located at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/news.htm.
- There is also a link from the FoodShare homepage to this information: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/index.htm.
- DHS' web update includes a link to the Request for Replacement FoodShare Benefits form (F-00330), available in 9 languages, including English, Spanish, and Hmong: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/collection/f-00330.
- There is also a link in our update to the DHS Food Support Resources page, where members can find additional resources for food beyond just FoodShare: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/resources.htm.