



CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

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Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Louisiana State Officials Encourage Residents to Pre-Apply for Disaster Food Assistance



Kenner, La.- The Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has issued a statement encouraging all residents to prepare for Hurricane Season by pre-applying online for Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits (DSNAP), formerly known as Disaster Food Stamps.

DSNAP provides food assistance for eligible households who do not receive regular Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP) benefits who need assistance purchasing groceries due to lost income or damages following a disaster.

In the event of a disaster, the State requests the initiation of DSNAP by the federal government. This request can only be made if the parish has been declared eligible for Individual Assistance by the Federal Management Agency (FEMA).

Many Kenner residents certainly found need for DSNAP benefits following Hurricanes Katrina certainly found the need for DSNAP benefits following Hurricanes Katrina and Isaac. Unfortunately, many people faced long lines in inhospitable weather at DSNAP processing centers established after the storms. Although residents will still need to go to a processing center, state officials are confident that the pre-registration proves will reduce the amount of time necessary to complete the evaluation process.

“The goal of the pre-application program is to ensure that eligible residents affected by a major disaster can obtain much needed food and essential supplies as soon as possible following the event,” said Mayor Michael Yenni. **“Kenner’s administration works closely with our state and federal partners on a year-round basis, promoting programs and coordinating local activities that benefit our residents in their time of**

need. Kenner residents should consider pre-applying for DSNAP benefits before a major storm threatens.”

To date, 373,252 Louisiana families have pre-applied for DSNAP since DCFS launched the program in June 2009. Any family that previously pre-applied for DSNAP or received DSNAP benefits during 2012’s Hurricane Isaac does not need to pre-apply again. Individuals who pre-applied are encouraged to update their financial and household information if it has changed by logging into their account at www.dcfslouisiana.gov/preapply.

Last year, residents who had pre-applied for DSNAP reported shorter lines at DSNAP applications sites following Hurricane Isaac. DCFS operated DSNAP sites in 21 parishes following the storm, serving 263,459 households.

DCFS officials advise that the pre-application process does not guarantee benefits, but is designed to save time, prevent long waits and make it easier for applicants to provide the required income information.

Residents can pre-apply for DSNAP by visiting www.dcfslouisiana.gov/preapply and www.getagameplan.org or by calling 1-888-LA-HELPU (1-888-524-3578).

DSNAP applicants must provide the following information:

- Names, Social Security Numbers and Dates of Birth for each household member
- Current address and parish of household
- Monthly income for each household member
- All liquid resources for each household member (cash on hand, checking, savings and money market account balances and certificates of deposit)

The information will be kept securely on file and will be confidential, utilized only in the event of a disaster where DSNAP benefits are authorized.

In the event that a disaster is declared and a DSNAP program is launched, residents, or their authorized representatives, who have pre-applied only need to visit a DSNAP issuance site to verify their information and identity, determine final eligibility and receive their benefit cards if eligible. Exact eligibility requirements and DSNAP issuance sites will be announced only after a disaster is declared.

Louisiana's federally approved system is the first year-round DSNAP pre-application process in the nation. For more information on DSNAP and how to pre-apply visit www.dcfslouisiana.gov/dsnap.

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State Officials Encourage Residents to Pre-Apply for Disaster Food Assistance as Hurricane Season Begins



Hurricane season officially began June 1 and extends through the end of November. The **Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)** encourages all residents to prepare by pre-applying online for **Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits (DSNAP)**, formerly called Disaster Food Stamps.

DSNAP provides food assistance for eligible households who do not receive regular Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and who need help buying groceries due to lost income or damages following a disaster.

In the event of a disaster, the state must request that the federal government initiate DSNAP, but can only make the request if the parish has been declared eligible for Individual Assistance by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

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