
**DEPARTMENT
POLICY**

Food Assistance recipients may be issued a replacement of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits when food purchased with FAP benefits has been destroyed in a domestic misfortune or disaster and reported timely. See [BAM 401E, Electronic Benefit Transfer Issuance System](#), for policy regarding replacement of Bridge cards.

Limits

There is **no** limit to the number of replacements for food purchased with food assistance benefits and destroyed in a domestic misfortune or disaster.

**Individual
Responsibilities**

Replacements and reauthorizations are processed **only** if the individual reports the loss timely. Timely means within 10 days if the loss is due to domestic misfortune or disaster. However, if day 10 falls on a weekend or holiday and it is reported on the next workday, it is still considered timely. Once the individual reports the loss, they must be given or sent a DHS-601, Food Replacement Affidavit, and a VCL giving them 10 days to return the DHS-601.

**Approval and
Denial of
Replacements**

The request for replacement must be completed within 10 days of the request, or within two working days of receipt of the signed DHS-601, whichever is later.

If approving or denying a replacement, send the individual a MDHHS-176, Client Notice, within 10 days of the individual's request.

**Domestic
Misfortune or
Disaster**

Domestic misfortunes or disasters include events which occur through no fault of the individual, such as fires, floods or electrical outages. Verify the circumstances through a collateral contact, a community agency, utility company or a home visit, and note it on the DHS-601.

Except for households certified as part of Emergency Food Assistance for Victims of Disasters, replacement issuance shall be provided in the amount of the loss to the household, up to a maximum of one month's allotment, unless the issuance includes restored benefits which shall be replaced up to their full value.

Discuss with the individual the amount of food originally purchased with FAP benefits that was lost as a result of the domestic misfortune or disaster. Replace the amount the individual states they have lost up to the value of the current month's allotment. The individual must complete the DHS-601 describing the loss.

Note: If FNS has declared a disaster, the group may receive either disaster benefits or replacement of food, but **not** both.

EXHIBIT

Replacement Circumstances ^a	When Individual Must Request	Limit on Replacements ^b	Specialist Time Period	Follow-Up
Food of current participant originally purchased with FAP benefits destroyed in a domestic misfortune or disaster.	Within 10 days of the domestic misfortune or disaster. Or the next workday if day 10 falls on a weekend or holiday.	None. Disaster must be verified. Individual must attest to amount of food loss on DHS-601.	Within 10 days of the request, or within two working days of receipt of the signed DHS-601, whichever is later.	None. Note: Cannot receive both a replacement and FNS declared disaster allotment.
a. If a circumstance does not fit those described on the chart a replacement is not allowed.				
b. If a replacement is approved or denied, the group must be informed via the MDHHS-176.				

LEGAL BASE

7 CFR 274.6
7 CFR 280