



**Governor's Office of
Homeland Security &
Emergency Preparedness**

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 4, 2012

DCFS Announces DSNAP Locations, Alphabetic Order of Service ***Applicants should go to DSNAP sites on designated day only to speed service***

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) today announced locations where residents of nine parishes can finalize their application for Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DNSAP) benefits. Additional sites will be announced as the need arises or as additional parishes are approved for DSNAP.

DSNAP, formerly called Disaster Food Stamps, provides food assistance for eligible households who do not receive regular SNAP benefits and who need help buying groceries due to lost income or damages following a disaster.

Each site will serve applicants on a staggered alphabetic schedule. To minimize wait times, applicants and anyone who pre-applied for benefits should go to a DSNAP location only on the day indicated by the first letter of their last name. Applicants who are unable to visit a site on their designated day can go on the final two days each site is open. Applicants can visit any DSNAP site to receive benefits; they are not required to visit the DSNAP site in their parish of residence.

The following locations will be open Wednesday, September 5 through Tuesday, September 11 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- Ascension Parish - Lamar Dixon Expo Center, 9039 St. Landry Rd., Gonzales
- Jefferson Parish - Alario Center, 2000 Segnette Blvd., Westwego
- Lafourche Parish - Peltier Park, 151 Peltier Park, Thibodaux
- Livingston Parish - Amvets, 26890 Hwy. 42, Springfield
- Orleans Parish - University of New Orleans, 6801 Franklin Ave., New Orleans
- St. John - New Wine Christian Church, 1929 W. Airline Hwy., LaPlace

In Lafourche Parish, DCFS will open a second site on Friday, September 7 at South Lafourche Parish Library, 16241 East Main, Cutoff, now that electrical services have been restored.

For the above locations, applicants should go on the following designated days based on their last name.

Wednesday, September 5	A through C
Thursday, September 6	D through G
Friday, September 7	H through L
Saturday, September 8	M through R
Sunday, September 9	S through Z
Monday, September 10	All applicants unable to make prior scheduled day
Tuesday, September 11	All applicants unable to make prior scheduled day

The South Lafourche Parish Library site will be open for five days and will follow the same alphabetic schedule listed above for Friday through Tuesday, unless an extension is warranted. Applicants should go on the following designated days based on their last name.

Friday, September 7	H through L
Saturday, September 8	M through R
Sunday, September 9	S through Z
Monday, September 10	A through C and all applicants unable to make prior scheduled day
Tuesday, September 11	D through G and all applicants unable to make prior scheduled day

The following locations will be open Wednesday, September 5 to Wednesday, September 12 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., but will be CLOSED for the day on Sunday, September 9.

- Plaquemines - Excleration Church, 202 Woodland Hwy., Belle Chasse
- St. Bernard - Christian Fellowship Church, 5816 E. Judge Perez Dr., Violet
- St. Tammany - YMCA, 71256 Francis Road, Covington
- St. Tammany - First Baptist Church, 16333 Hwy. 1085, Covington

The above sites will follow the following schedule:

Wednesday, September 5	A through C
Thursday, September 6	D through G
Friday, September 7	H through L
Saturday, September 8	M through R
Sunday, September 9	CLOSED
Monday, September 10	S through Z
Tuesday, September 11	All applicants unable to make prior scheduled day
Wednesday, September 12	All applicants unable to make prior scheduled day

DSNAP applicants MUST go to a specified DSNAP site to apply and receive benefits. DCFS offices will not accept DSNAP applications.

Applicants may name an Authorized Representative to go to a DSNAP site on their behalf.

Accommodations will be made for the elderly and those with disabilities to reduce on-site wait times.

Individuals in the approved parishes who pre-applied for DSNAP must visit a DSNAP issuance site with a picture ID to verify their identity and information to decide final eligibility before receiving benefit cards. Pre-applying does not guarantee benefits.

If pre-applicants named an Authorized Representative, that person may go to the site in their place.

Authorized representatives must bring with them to the DSNAP site a picture ID and the picture ID of the applicant/head of household along with a signed statement from the applicant/head of household or an adult household member authorizing them as a representative.

Regular SNAP households DO NOT need to apply for DSNAP. Households that receive regular SNAP benefits in the nine DSNAP parishes will automatically have additional DSNAP benefits added to their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards if they are not already receiving the maximum allotment for their household size.

To help expedite the application process, individuals can pre-apply for Hurricane Isaac DSNAP through Tuesday either online at www.dcf.la.gov/preapply or www.getagameplan.org or by calling 1-888-LAHELP-U (888-524-3578) 24 hours a day. When applying by phone, callers should select the appropriate language and then select options 3 and 3.

The following information is required for DSNAP pre-application:

- Names, Social Security Numbers and Dates of Birth for each household member;
- Address and Parish where you currently live;
- Monthly income for each household member; and
- All liquid resources for each household member (cash on hand, checking accounts, savings accounts).

DCFS is working to get DSNAP benefits out to eligible residents as quickly as possible. Intentionally providing inaccurate or incomplete information as part of a DSNAP application could be considered fraud. Strong safeguards are in place to identify DSNAP fraud and abuse. DCFS will work to investigate suspected fraud and aggressively pursue recoupment and possibly prosecution.

Additional DSNAP Requests

Louisiana's request for an Individual Assistance declaration for St. Charles Parish was approved today, and the state subsequently requested approval to implement DSNAP for St. Charles.

On Saturday, September 1, the state requested an additional Individual Assistance (IA) declaration for the following parishes, based on their damage levels: Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. James, St. Mary, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana.

An IA declaration is the first step to requesting DSNAP benefits for those parishes. The state plans to request DSNAP benefits for any additional parishes for which IA is approved.

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