



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION
Economic Services Administration
Post Office Box 45440 Olympia WA 98504-5440

September 15, 2020

Dear Stakeholders and Community Partners,

Certain counties are being designated disaster areas due to the devastating effect of wildfires burning throughout Washington state. The DSHS has updated its Disaster Cash Assistance Program (DCAP) to serve people who are impacted.

Households impacted by wildfires in a county designated as a disaster area by Governor Jay Inslee may be eligible for DCAP. Currently, Douglas, Okanogan, Whitman, Lincoln, Spokane, Chelan, Pierce and Thurston counties are designated disaster areas. To qualify, households must:

- Have suffered losses and live in one of the counties designated a disaster area by Governor Jay Inslee;
- Be living in their home/primary residence (not a vacation home) at the time of the disaster;
- Be unable to live in or return to their home because of the disaster;
- Be a [resident of Washington state](#);
- Meet household net income limits (ranging from \$339 for one person up to \$1,121 for eight people or more) after adjusting for income deductions including any unreimbursed fire losses; and
- Not have anyone in the assistance unit be eligible for [any other program](#) that could meet their needs.

Some households that may ordinarily be over the income limit to qualify for a program like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) could still fall under the net income limit for DCAP, if they have financial losses that will not be covered within 30 days. Allowable losses resulting from the fire for a primary residence, property and/or personal property will reduce the amount of countable income and could bring a household under the net income limit.

The DSHS is updating the [program's rules](#) so that households impacted by the wildfires may be eligible for DCAP even if they received DCAP for the COVID-19 pandemic, as long as they meet all the eligibility criteria outlined above. Households can go to [Washington Connection](#) to apply online or call 877-501-2233.

Other Assistance:

Households that suffer a loss of food purchased with Basic Food benefits as a result of a disaster such as wildfires may apply to have benefits replaced. The loss must be reported within 10 days by calling 877-501-2233.

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Households can visit [Washington Connection](#) to see if they qualify for food, cash, child care, long-term care and Medicare Savings Programs or to find other services.

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Kavanaugh, kavansg@dshs.wa.gov.

I appreciate your support to keep our customers informed and connected to the services they may need during these very difficult times.

Thank you,



Babs Roberts, Director
Community Services Division