

01 Disaster Nutrition Assistance Program - Overview

In the event of a disaster, Arizona may choose to issue emergency Nutrition Assistance (NA) benefits using any of the following:

- The regular Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP)
- A modified NAP
- A Disaster Nutrition Assistance Program (DNAP)

NOTE To operate a Disaster Nutrition Assistance Program (DNAP), the President must declare a Major Disaster with Individual Assistance. When a disaster is not presidentially declared, **FNS** may still provide very limited disaster assistance.

The regular NAP may be used when all of the following occur:

- Minimal damage has occurred
- Benefits can be issued using current policy and procedures
- FAA can keep up with the increase in applications for benefits

A modified NA program may be implemented when all of the following occur:

- The affected area is limited
- Participants are able to meet most of the NA eligibility requirements
- Waivers can be requested to address the needs of a portion of the population

The DNAP is implemented when both of the following occur:

- An area is declared a disaster by the President of the United States (using Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Disaster Assistance Act of 1988 criteria) or commercial channels of food distribution were disrupted and have since been restored (using Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, criteria)
- The state is not able to handle the expected increase in applications for benefits

NOTE An abbreviated application is used. Eligibility and verification requirements are limited. Applicants may be eligible who would not otherwise be eligible for the regular NA program.

As with the regular NA program, when determining eligibility in a disaster situation, any questionable or unusual situations must be explored, resolved, and documented.

The **USDA FNS** approves Arizona's request to implement a DNAP.

FNS provides food assistance in the following ways:

- Food for shelters and other mass feeding sites
- Food for distribution directly to budgetary units in need (Disaster distribution of USDA foods)
- Disaster NA benefits (DNAP benefits)

NOTE Budgetary units that receive disaster distribution of USDA foods are not eligible for DNAP benefits.

The DNAP is a completely different program from the regular NA program. The usual NA program eligibility, verification, and benefit calculation do not apply. For the budgetary unit to be eligible for the DNAP, the following requirements apply:

- Disaster status
- Verification of identity
- Verification of residency in the disaster area, when possible
- Net income received during the disaster benefit period
- Accessible liquid resources (cash, checking accounts, savings accounts)
- Meets the disaster monthly income standard

NOTE Applicants currently disqualified from participation in the NA program are potentially eligible for the DNAP.

The DNAP supports Arizona's State Emergency Preparedness Plan. DES coordinates all efforts with the Arizona Department of Emergency Management, Arizona's lead agency in disaster situations.

Policy and procedures regarding the DNAP are outlined as follows:

- [DNAP Definitions](#)
- [DNAP Application Process](#)
- [DNAP Nonfinancial Eligibility](#)
- [DNAP Financial Eligibility](#)

- [DNAP Eligibility and Benefit Determinations](#)
- [DNAP Reporting Changes](#)
- [DNAP Benefit Issuance](#)
- [DNAP Fair Hearings](#)
- [DNAP Overpayment Claim Determinations](#)
- [DNAP Restoration of Lost Benefits](#)
- [DNAP General Information](#)

ARCHIVED (Valid until 05/18/20)