



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Ashtabula SNAP recipients in certain ZIP codes eligible for automatic replacement of benefits due to loss of power**

Columbus, Ohio – Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Matt Damschroder today announced that Ohio has requested and received a waiver from the federal government to automatically replace the benefits of certain SNAP recipients who lost food during the recent power outages in northeast Ohio. SNAP recipients in 12 ZIP codes in Ashtabula County will automatically receive a portion of their monthly benefits. This follows a similar waiver obtained last week for [Geauga, Lake, and Cuyahoga counties](#).

“The automatic payment waivers help expedite replacement benefits to those in need by eliminating paperwork, which benefits both recipients and the county workers who have to process it,” said Damschroder. “Those not eligible for blanket approval will still have until September 5, 2024 to apply for replacement benefits thanks to the extension we announced earlier.”

Food assistance is provided in Ohio through the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is administered by ODJFS through County Departments of Job and Family Services. Households that lose food purchased with SNAP benefits due to a power outage of at least four hours can apply to receive replacement SNAP benefits for food the household lost (e.g. perishable items such as fresh meat and dairy), as long as it does not exceed their monthly allotment.

The blanket replacement was made possible after ODJFS successfully secured a waiver from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, which establishes SNAP guidelines. It was the third waiver ODJFS has secured in the wake of widespread power outages in early August. The first extended the usual 10-day window for application to 30 days. The second waiver allowed for automatic repayments to SNAP recipients in all of Geauga and Lake Counties, as well as 52 ZIP codes in Cuyahoga County.



Mike DeWine, Governor | Jon Husted, Lt. Governor | Matt Damschroder, Director

ODJFS is working on a timeline to replace the benefits by automatically depositing the allowable amount into the recipients' SNAP accounts. Individuals in the following ZIP codes do not need to do anything additional to receive these automatic replacements.

44004	44041	44076
44005	44047	44084
44010	44048	44085
44030	44068	44099

The federal government set the amount of replacement benefits a SNAP recipient is eligible for based on two factors: the fact that only perishable foods, not shelf-stable foods, would be impacted by a power loss, and when they received their last monthly benefit payment. The closer their last payment was to the date of the storm, the more benefits will be replaced. The replacement percentage will be based on the household's last regular benefit amount made available before the storm, and are as follows:

<b>Date of Allotment Receipt:</b>	<b>Replacement Percentage:</b>
July 30 through August 6, 2024	60%
July 22 through July 29, 2024	45%
July 14 through July 21, 2024	30%
July 7 through July 13, 2024	15%

Those not eligible for blanket replacement have until September 5, 2024 to complete [JFS Form 07222](#) submit it to their [County Department of Job and Family Services](#) (CDJFS). The CDJFS will have to verify the extended power outage before replacing benefits. Households should be prepared to provide verification of the extended power outage. This includes screenshots of news reports, text or email alerts, or outage maps that show their specific area was without power for four hours or more.

To determine if a SNAP recipient is eligible for replacement benefits, the CDJFS follows reimbursement criteria provided in [Ohio Administrative Code \(OAC\) Rule 5101: 4-7-11](#), as established by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service.





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*The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services manages vital programs that strengthen Ohio families. These include job training and employment services, unemployment insurance, cash and food assistance, adult protective services, and child support services.*

