



## SNAP Access Following Disaster: What community members with a drug-related felony conviction should know

**TIME SENSITIVE: The deadline to apply for D-SNAP is October 24, 2024**

NORTH CAROLINA typically prevents a person with class A-G drug-related felony conviction from obtaining food assistance through the Food and Nutrition Services Program (FNS or SNAP) for their entire lifetime. This law also bars a person with a class H or I drug-related felony from food assistance for 6 months. Due to the devastating impacts of Hurricane Helene, the state is eligible for federal disaster relief that allows more food access for affected families.

**The State of North Carolina has authorized two temporary changes to ensure families who have been affected by Hurricane Helene receive money to purchase food:**

1. **Approved access to disaster food stamps (D-SNAP) which waives typical disqualifications, including the felony drug-related disqualification; *and***

2. **Allowed waiver of substance use assessments for SNAP-eligible individuals with H & I drug-related felony convictions.**

You must identify as one of the **following**:

- Lived in, at the time of disaster, **Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes or Yancey County**; or
- Be a member of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians living in zip code 28719.

**If you were impacted by Hurricane Helene but your county is not listed, please contact your local Department of Social Services.**

**WAIVER OF SUBSTANCE USE ASSESSMENT:  
For People with a H & I Drug-related Felony Conviction who are eligible for SNAP benefits**

<b>What is the temporary change?</b>	Temporarily pauses the substance use assessment requirement for individuals with an H or I drug-related felony, who is otherwise eligible for SNAP benefits
<b>Who does it apply to?</b>	Applies to new SNAP applications, pending SNAP applications, and applications for SNAP re-certification
<b>Can the applicant currently receive SNAP benefits?</b>	Must be eligible for SNAP benefits
<b>What is the period for the waiver?</b>	DHHS released a letter announcing the waiver of substance use assessments on October 11, 2024. The requirement of a substance use assessment will re-start at the time of the applicant's next re-certification.
<b>Where can I find more information?</b>	For more information, contact your local Department of Social Services.

## D-SNAP / WAIVER OF FELONY DRUG DISQUALIFICATION:

For people with a drug-related felony conviction who are not currently eligible for SNAP benefits

<b>What is the Temporary Change?</b>	Temporarily allows families and individuals who are typically not eligible for SNAP including those who do not meet eligibility requirements for citizenship, students, substance use disqualifications, able-bodied adults with no independents, and those with intentional program violations. This includes a person with a drug-related felony.
<b>Who does the policy apply to?</b>	Applies to anyone who: (1) has income and resources below certain levels, (2) plans to purchase food during the disaster period, (3) has experienced a food loss due to the disaster and one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Damage to or destruction of the household's home or self-employment; or</li><li>• Lost or inaccessible income, including reduction or termination of income, or a delay in receipt of income; or</li><li>• A disaster related expenses that was paid during the benefit period, which was not reimbursed; or</li><li>• Inaccessible liquid resources.</li></ul> (4) can show proof of identity (and proof of residency, if available). (5) other SNAP eligibility factors, including substance use and citizenship are waived.
<b>Can the applicant currently receive SNAP benefits?</b>	Must not be receiving SNAP benefits
<b>What is the period for the waiver?</b>	<b>Application Period (In-Person and By Phone) is October 18-24, 2024.</b> Impacted residents can begin pre-registration online, <a href="#">NCDHHS - ePASS</a> , starting October 15, 2024.  <b>Apply by Phone:</b> Call 1-844-453-1117 on Weekdays (8 am-4 pm) or Weekend (9 am-12 pm).  <b>Apply In-Person:</b> At any of locations listed at <a href="#">ncdhhs.gov/dsnap</a> . Weekdays (8 am- 4 pm), Weekend (9 am-2pm).
<b>Where can I find more information?</b>	For more information, contact your local Department of Social Services.

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT AVAILABLE HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF PROGRAMS:

- NC Justice Center Helene Resources <https://www.ncjustice.org/helene/>
- Legal Aid of North Carolina Tropical Storm Helene Disaster Assistance <https://legalaidnc.org/tropical-storm-helene-disaster-assistance/>
- NC DHHS Helene Recovery <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/hurricane-helene-recovery-resources>



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