

ECONOMIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION | COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

Disaster Cash Assistance Program – DCAP

**Key Messages
November 2021**

WHY:

Starting Nov. 22, 2021, the Department of Social and Health Services will begin offering the Disaster Cash Assistance Program, or DCAP.

In response to the devastating effects of severe weather, Governor Inslee declared the following counties disaster areas: Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, Lewis, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Mason, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston and Whatcom counties.

Households that live in these counties and are unable to return to their homes due to the recent severe weather, including flooding, landslides, mudslides or other hazardous storm events, may be eligible for DCAP.

WHAT:

This emergency cash assistance program is available to people who are not eligible for other cash assistance programs. Unlike Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, people without children and who are not pregnant may be eligible as well as families who meet the income and resource limits of the program listed in the tables below. This cash assistance is available to Washington residents regardless of citizenship status and does not require applicants to provide a Social Security number.

New legislation states that people who have received DCAP benefits previously and are still in need may reapply each month the program is active. The monthly benefit amount depends on household size, income and need. It ranges from a maximum of \$417 for a single person to a maximum of \$1,289 for a household of eight or more people.

HOW:

This program requires an application and interview. People can apply for DCAP online at WashingtonConnection.org and then call the Customer Service Contact Center at 877-501-2233 to complete the required interview. People can also call 877-501-2233 to complete the entire application process over the phone. Due to much higher than normal call volumes, people are asked to call before 11 a.m. and to keep in mind that the busiest call times are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Customer Service Contact Center is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, but application processing ends at 3 p.m. As a reminder, you can come to your local [Community Services Office](#) lobby to access a computer to apply for benefits and a phone to complete the required interview.

Once approved, people will receive their DCAP benefits on an existing Electronic Benefit Transfer or EBT card, or a new EBT card will be sent via U.S. mail.

Who is eligible for Disaster Cash Assistance?

In order to qualify for this assistance, your household must meet all of the following:

- Live in an area that has been declared a disaster.
- Be a resident of Washington state as defined in WAC 388-468-0005.
- Have net income under the limits in WAC 388-436-0050(1).
- You or your family are not eligible for any other program that could meet your need as stated in WAC 388-436-0030.
- Demonstrate a financial need for emergency funds.

How often can I get this help?

Based on the current order from the governor, the DCAP program may be offered monthly. A new application and interview are required for each request during this time.

How long will this program be available?

This is a temporary program and is scheduled to end when the Governor’s order expires on **Dec. 18, 2021**.

Can I receive a DCAP cash benefit even if I don’t have kids living with me?

Yes.

Can I get DCAP and other cash programs at the same time?

No. DCAP is for households in which no members qualify for other DSHS cash programs.

What is the income limit for this program?

The net income limit (after deductions) for all income expected in the month of application is based on your household size. See chart below:

Household Size	Income limit after deductions
1	\$375
2	\$475
3	\$589
4	\$694
5	\$799
6	\$908
7	\$1,049
8+	\$1,160

Is there a resource limit for this program?

Any resources that are available within 30 days are considered income except the following:

- A home as defined under WAC 388-470-0045.
- One vehicle, running and used regularly by the household, with an equity value not to exceed \$1,500.

What information do I need for my interview?

During the interview, we'll discuss all income you expect for the month, what resources you have available, what deductions we can make and which expenses you need help with.

What type of expenses can I get help with?

DCAP covers the following types of needs: Shelter costs, utilities, clothing, minor medical care, household supplies and transportation costs for work. DCAP can also help with food, only if you aren't eligible for ongoing food benefits.

What is the maximum DCAP benefit amount?

The benefit amount depends on your household size, income and need. The maximum benefit is listed below:

Household Size	Maximum Benefit Amount
1	\$417
2	\$528
3	\$654
4	\$771
5	\$888
6	\$1,009
7	\$1,165
8+	\$1,289

Do I need to be a U.S. citizen? What if I do not have a Social Security number?

You are not required to be a U.S. citizen or to have certain immigration status to receive DCAP. Any DCAP payment is excluded from the public charge test. You also are not required to provide a Social Security number to receive DCAP.

Will my immigration information be shared with federal immigration authorities (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services)?

DSHS will not verify immigration information with USCIS for those who are only eligible for DCAP. Those individuals or families who are eligible for other cash or food assistance programs will have their immigration status verified by DSHS through the SAVE system under its contract with USCIS.

How do I receive the benefits?

If you are approved for DCAP, your benefits will be issued to your Electronic Benefits Transfer, or EBT, card. If you do not have one, we will provide you a card. Your card will be sent to you in the mail, unless you have a general delivery address.