



**State of Florida  
Department of Children and Families**

**Jeb Bush**  
Governor

**Lucy D. Hadi**  
Secretary

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
September 6, 2005

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**DCF RESPONDS TO KATRINA EVACUEES  
WITH HOT FOOD ACCESS**

*Temporary change in Food Stamp program provides necessary relief*

**TALLAHASSEE** – The Department of Children and Families, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, today announced food relief for victims of Hurricane Katrina in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana who evacuated to Florida.

Food Stamp recipients in 34 North Florida and Panhandle counties may use their benefits to purchase hot prepared foods through Oct. 31. The measure is intended to assist residents of the Gulf Coast who have been displaced from their homes and cooking supplies as a result of Katrina.

The temporary change in Food Stamp rules applies to program participants in the following counties: Alachua, Baker, Bay, Bradford, Calhoun, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Nassau, Okaloosa, Putnam, St. Johns, Santa Rosa, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington.

The hot food benefit is available to individuals who qualified for the Food Stamp Program in their home states, or whose eligibility was determined in Florida by DCF.

The food must be purchased from authorized USDA Food and Nutrition Service retailers. Retailers in the affected counties have been notified of the exception to program rules.

DCF requested and received a waiver of federal regulations from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to allow these purchases.

Food Stamp Recipients with questions may call 1-866-762-2237. More information on the Food Stamp Program can be found at [www.myflorida.com/accessflorida/](http://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida/)

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