



ECONOMIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION | COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

Disaster Cash Assistance Program Frequently Asked Questions

August 2026

What is the Disaster Cash Assistance Program, or DCAP?

DCAP is an emergency cash assistance program 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 might be eligible for DCAP as well as families **who meet the income and resource limits** of the program listed in the table below. The monthly benefit amount depends on household size, income and need.

Why is this happening?

In response to the devastating effects of the wildfires, Gov. Bob Ferguson declared Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Okanogan, Spokane, Stevens and Yakima counties as well as the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and Spokane Tribe of Indians as a disaster area and issued an order activating DCAP. Starting Aug. 12, 2026, the Department of Social and Health Services will begin offering DCAP. People residing in designated disaster areas who are unable to return to their homes due to the evacuations or wildfire damage might be eligible for DCAP.

Who is eligible for DCAP?

To qualify for this assistance, your household must meet all of the following:

- Live in an area that has been declared a disaster
- Reside in the disaster area in a primary residence, not a vacation home
- Have suffered losses
- Be unable to live in their home or cannot return to their home due to the 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)
- Be ineligible for any other program that could meet your need as stated in WAC 388-436-0030

How do I apply?

This program requires an application and an interview. People can apply:

- In person at their [local Community Services Office](#)
- By phone at 877-501-2233.
- At a DSHS Mobile Office (please check the [DSHS Mobile Offices Calendar](#) for dates and locations)
- Online at [WashingtonConnection.org](#) (and then complete the required interview by calling the Customer Service Contact Center at 877-501-2233 or visiting a DSHS mobile office event or a local [Community Services Office](#))

Although we are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, people must call or check in by 2 p.m. to be put in the queue for interviews that afternoon. Your interview will be completed that day even if it's past 2 p.m. Please do not hang up.

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 a card, we will provide one. Your card will be issued at a Community Services Office or sent to you in the U.S. mail, unless you have a general delivery address.

How often can I get this help?

Based on the current order from the governor, the DCAP cash benefit 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 scheduled to end when the governor's order expires or when available funds are exhausted, whichever comes first.

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 only for households with members who don't qualify for other DSHS cash assistance 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.

Household Size	Income limit after deductions
1	\$405
2	\$513
3	\$636
4	\$749
5	\$863
6	\$981
7	\$1,132
8	\$1,253
9	\$1,376
10+	\$1,496

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.

With what type of expenses can I get help?

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, but only if you are ineligible 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 by household size is listed below:

Household Size	Maximum Benefit Amount
1	\$450
2	\$570
3	\$706
4	\$833
5	\$959
6	\$1,090
7	\$1,258
8	\$1,392
9	\$1,529
10+	\$1,662

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 have a certain immigration status to receive DCAP. Any DCAP payment is excluded from the public charge test. Also, you are not required to provide a Social Security number to receive DCAP.