

## **Disaster Cash Assistance Program Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the Disaster Cash Assistance Program or DCAP?**

The Department of Social and Health Services activates DCAP in response to specified state of emergency declarations. This cash program is intended to help some Washingtonians meet their basic needs during the state of emergency.

### **Why is this happening?**

This year, Governor Inslee has made two separate emergency declarations to activate DCAP: In April 2020, to address the statewide impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in September 2020, in response to the wildfires devastating several counties. These declarations allow DSHS to issue benefits under DCAP to families and individuals who wouldn't normally be eligible for cash benefits.

### **How do I apply?**

This program requires an application and interview. Households can apply by:

- Applying online at [WashingtonConnection.org](https://www.washingtonconnection.org) and then calling the Customer Service Contact Center at 877-501-2233 to complete the required interview.
- Calling 877-501-2233 between 8 a.m.–3 p.m. Monday through Friday to complete the whole application process.
- Please be aware that the Customer Service Contact Center is experiencing very high call volumes and you may have a long wait time. The best time to call is before 11 a.m. The busiest time to call is 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We can determine your eligibility for all of our programs in one interview.

### **How often can I get this help?**

This program is available to households for only one month in a 12-month period for each specified state of emergency.

### **How long will this program be available?**

This is a temporary program and will end when the state of emergency ends, or sooner.

**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 that don't 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	\$363
2	\$459
3	\$569
4	\$670
5	\$772
6	\$877
7	\$1,013
8+	\$1,121

**Is there a resource limit for this program?**

During the current emergency, up to \$6,000 of your available resources are exempt. Equity up to \$10,000 in a vehicle is also exempt.

**What information do I need for my interview?**

During the interview, we'll discuss all income you expect for the month, available resources, deductions and the 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	\$363
2	\$459
3	\$569
4	\$670
5	\$772
6	\$877
7	\$1,013
8+	\$1,121

**Do I need to be a 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.

**What are the major differences between DCAP for households that were impacted by COVID-19 and those impacted by the wildfires?**

DCAP COVID-19	DCAP Wildfires
Available to households impacted by COVID-19 statewide	Available to households in specific counties designated disaster areas, if their primary home is impacted by wildfires
Available to Washington state residents who meet the criteria, regardless of their housing situation	Available to households that are unable to live in or return to their home because of the wildfires
Not likely to have losses to physical property	Likely to have suffered losses to physical property, losses not expected to be reimbursed within 30 days could be used as an income

deduction

**If I already received DCAP for the COVID-19 related emergency and I'm now impacted by the wildfires, could I get DCAP again?**

Yes, the Governor issued a waiver allowing households impacted by wildfires to receive DCAP, even if they already received DCAP based on COVID-19 related impacts in the last 12 months. A household could receive DCAP once for an emergency related to COVID-19 and once for a wildfire related emergency.

**We lost our house in a wildfire, but our income is above the net income. Can we still qualify for DCAP?**

Maybe; losses to physical property as a result of the wildfire that are not expected to be reimbursed within 30 days can be used as an income deduction.

**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.