

Disaster Cash Assistance Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Disaster Cash Assistance Program?

The Department of Social and Health Services activates the Disaster Cash Assistance Program, or DCAP, when the governor declares certain states of emergency. The program is meant to help some Washingtonians meet their basic needs during the state of emergency.

Why is this happening?

The federal government has once again approved implementing DCAP in Washington state. Effective April 2021, DCAP will be reinstated in response to the COVID-19 emergency. The DSHS Community Services Division has additional funding and a new order from Governor Inslee to administer this temporary program to help Washingtonians through this unprecedented time of hardship.

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 will end when the state of emergency ends, or when all the funds are disbursed, whichever is sooner.

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

Yes.

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How do I apply?

This program requires an application and interview. Households can:

- Applying online at [WashingtonConnection.org](https://www.washingtonconnection.org) and then call the Customer Service Contact Center at 877-501-2233 to complete the required interview.
- Call **877-501-2233** between 8 a.m.–3 p.m. Monday through Friday to complete the whole application process.
- We can determine your eligibility for all of our programs in one interview.



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, 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	\$363
2	\$459
3	\$569
4	\$670
5	\$772
6	\$877
7	\$1,013
8+	\$1,121

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.