

ECONOMIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION | COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

**Disaster Cash Assistance Program – DCAP**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**August 2023**

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

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. 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 \$1,539 for a household of 10 or more people.

**Why is this happening?**

In response to the devastating effects of the wildfires, Gov. Inslee declared Spokane, Pend Oreille and Whitman Counties disaster areas and issued an order activating DCAP. Starting Aug. 31, 2023, the Department of Social and Health Services will begin offering DCAP. People residing in the designated disaster areas who are unable to return to their homes due to evacuations or wildfire damage may be eligible for DCAP.

**How do I apply?**

This program requires an application and interview. People can apply for DCAP online at [WashingtonConnection.org](http://WashingtonConnection.org) and call the Customer Service Contact Center at 877-501-2233 or go to their local [Community Services Office](#) to complete the required interview. Although we are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, people must call or check in by 2 p.m. for interviews.

People can also call 877-501-2233 or visit their local Community Service Office to complete the entire application process. Due to much-higher-than-normal call volumes, people are asked to call before 11 a.m. and to keep in mind the busiest call times are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**How do I receive the DCAP 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 may be issued at a Community Services Office or sent to you in the mail, unless you have a general delivery address.

**Who is eligible for Disaster Cash Assistance?**

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

- Live in an area that has been declared a disaster
- Be unable to return to your 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\(1\)](#)

- You or your family are ineligible 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 scheduled to end when the governor’s order expires Sept. 29, 2023.

**Can I receive a DCAP cash benefit even if I do not 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 the 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
9	\$1,274
10+	1,385

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

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

**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 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
9	\$1,416
10+	\$1,539

**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 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.

**Will my immigration information be shared with federal immigration authorities or 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.