

Bay Area Legal Services is a regional, nonprofit public interest law firm providing the highest quality legal counsel by:

- Assisting individuals and nonprofit groups with limited access to legal services;
- Resolving the legal problems of our clients; and
- Preserving the independence, hope, and dignity of those we serve.

Vision

Bay Area Legal Services aims to eliminate barriers to justice through high quality legal services, education, and community partnerships.

Who is eligible for our free legal services?

- Low-income residents of Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, and Sarasota counties
- Domestic violence victims throughout our service area, regardless of income
- Seniors (age 60 and older) living in other Florida counties through the Florida Senior Legal Helpline
- Nonprofit and community groups that serve low-income individuals or distressed communities
- Other clients who qualify under special programs.

For more information, visit our website at www.bals.org

Bay Area Legal Services Inc.
1302 N. 19th Street, Suite 400
Tampa, FL 33605-5230
Tel: 813-232-1343
Fax: 813-248-9922

BALS is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. We receive funding from a variety of sources, including:

- Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas
- Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney/Fowler White Boggs
- Carlton Fields Jordan Burt
- Children's Board of Hillsborough County
- Community Foundation of Tampa Bay
- Florida Attorney General's Office
- Florida Bar Foundation
- Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Florida Department of Elder Affairs
- Hillsborough County Bar Foundation
- Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners
- Hillsborough County Clerk of the Court
- Holland & Knight
- Internal Revenue Service
- Legal Services Corporation
- Pasco County Board of County Commissioners
- Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
- Senior Connection Center
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul South Pinellas
- Tampa Crossroads
- TECO Energy, Inc.
- The Children's Home
- The Spring of Tampa Bay
- United Way of Pasco County
- United Way Suncoast
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women



Disaster Food Assistance

**PRESERVING INDEPENDENCE, HOPE,
AND DIGNITY SINCE 1967**



**813-232-1343
www.bals.org**

*Disaster Information revised
12/14 by Community Legal
Services of Mid-Florida*



Who is eligible for Food Assistance After a disaster?

After a disaster, there are 3 different kinds of food assistance that you may be able to get:

1. Replacement Food Assistance to replace lost or spoiled food;
2. Disaster Food Assistance because you were caught in the disaster; and
3. Expedited Food Assistance because you are in immediate need.

Depending on your circumstances and the kind of Food Assistance that are made available, you may be eligible for only one kind, two kinds, all three, or none. Here is a description of the three kinds of Food Assistance and how you can qualify.

Replacement Food Assistance

1. I am getting food assistance, but all my food spoiled when the power went out during the disaster. What can I do?

You are eligible for Replacement Food Assistance to help you replace the spoiled food. Please contact your case worker or someone else at your local office of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) or call 866-762-2237 for more information on how to apply.

Disaster Food Assistance

1. What is Disaster Food Assistance?

The federal government can decide to give out Disaster Food Assistance when grocery stores are open for business again, after a disaster has kept food from being delivered to them.

2. Who is eligible for Disaster Food Assistance?

Eligibility depends on what the government decides after each disaster.

Households in the disaster area may be eligible for disaster Food Assistance even if they would usually not be eligible for food assistance.

3. How do I apply for Disaster Food Assistance?

Call DCF's toll free number at 866-762-2237 to find out where to apply, or contact your local Disaster Recover Center. You may also be able to apply online at www.myflorida.com/accessflorida/. Be sure to tell DCF that you are applying for Disaster Food Assistance.

Expedited Food Assistance

1. What is Expedited Food Assistance?

Expedited Food Assistance is for very needy people, and is given within 7 days after you apply. When you apply for regular food assistance, you will be asked questions to see if you qualify for Expedited Food Assistance.

2. How do I know if I am eligible for Expedited Food Assistance?

To be eligible for Expedited Food Assistance you must show either that:

- A. Your household has less than \$150 in monthly income before taxes and \$100 or less in cash and in bank accounts; or
- B. You are a migrant or seasonal farmworker household with less than \$100 in cash and you will not be getting any more income during the month you apply; or
- C. Your household's monthly rent or mortgage and utilities are more than your combined monthly income before taxes and the amount you have in cash and bank accounts.

3. Are immigrants eligible for Expedited Food Assistance?

Refugees, asylees, Cuban/Haitian entrants, lawful permanent residents (green card holders) with 40 quarters of work in the U.S., members of federally recognized Indian tribes, veterans, members of the armed services, and U.S. citizens are eligible.

4. What verification do I need to get Expedited Food Assistance?

You must be able to verify that you are who you say you are by showing documents with your name on them, or by having someone say they know you.

5. Do I have to meet any other eligibility requirements?

You will be asked for verification of your immigration status, your social security number, your income and your expenses at the time you apply. But even if you cannot give all of the verification, you will be eligible for Expedited Food Assistance within 7 days after you apply.

6. If I do not qualify for Expedited Food Assistance, can I still get regular Food Assistance?

Yes, your food stamp application will be processed and you will receive a written decision within 30 days stating whether you are eligible, and the amount of benefits to which you are entitled. If you are denied benefits, but you believe you are entitled to them, please contact Bay Area Legal Services.