

DISASTER CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COVID-19 RESPONSE

Washington State families and individuals are in need of assistance, now more than ever, due to the statewide disaster created by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Effective April 17, 2020, DSHS's Community Services Division will begin administering a Disaster Cash Assistance Program (DCAP) in response to the Governor's declaration of a statewide emergency.

The program was originally designed to provide emergency assistance with natural disasters in mind, like wildfires and flooding. In order to expand DCAP to families and individuals affected by COVID-19, the department is amending WAC via emergency adoption, identifying a state of emergency as beyond natural disasters.

The DCAP is available for one month, in a 12-month period, to all Washington families and people without children, who meet income and resource rules and who are not eligible other cash programs, such as:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD) cash
- Pregnant Women Assistance (PWA)
- Unemployment Compensation, or
- Paid Family & Medical Leave through ESD or their employer.

Citizenship status is not an eligibility criteria for DCAP. The program is not a public charge program since it is disaster relief. The program follows the Consolidated Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP) income, resource and payment rules, which will be amended as follows:

- Resource Limits – Exempt up to \$6,000 in available liquid resources and up to \$10,000 equity in one vehicle
- Net income Limits – Same as TANF payment standard
- Payment standards are based on income and need and may not exceed the TANF payment standards for their household size. For example, to be eligible for DCAP, a one person household must have less than \$363.00 in income after deductions are applied in the month of application (approximately 34% of the Federal Poverty Level). If an individual has no income and is resource eligible, they may qualify for the maximum payment amount of \$363.00 in DCAP.

DCAP Maximum Income and Payment Standards

Assistance Unit Members	Maximum Income Limit After Deductions are Applied	Maximum Payments Based on Need
<u>1</u>	<u>\$363</u>	<u>\$363</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>459</u>	<u>459</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>569</u>	<u>569</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>670</u>	<u>670</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>772</u>	<u>772</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>877</u>	<u>877</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>1,013</u>	<u>1,013</u>
<u>8 or more</u>	<u>1,121</u>	<u>1,121</u>

The COVID-19 pandemic is severely affecting Washingtonians, especially those with limited resources seeking support from their local Community Services Offices. CSD is providing services over the phone to reduce lobby traffic to flatten the curve of Washingtonians being exposed to COVID-19. People can apply for benefits or complete eligibility reviews over the phone without filling out a paper or online form.

Summary: Effective April 17, 2020, the Economic Services Administration will start administering a Disaster Cash Assistance Program (DCAP), during the duration of the COVID-19 emergency. This policy change will provide assistance for one month to Washington families and people without children who are not eligible for other cash programs and who meet the income and resource limits of the program. People can apply for assistance by calling the Customer Service Contact Center at 877-501-2233 or by applying online at WashingtonConnection.org.