



Jeb Bush
Governor

Jerry Regier
Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Gary Gershowitz
850-488-4855

**EARLY RELEASE OF FOOD STAMP AND TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE
BENEFITS AS FLORIDA PREPARES FOR HURRICANE FRANCES**

The Department of Children & Families will release September food stamp and Temporary Cash Assistance benefits ahead of schedule, so that current benefit recipients can purchase food and other emergency supplies in preparation for Hurricane Frances.

The September benefits will be available to all recipients via the normal automatic Electronic Bank Transfer (EBT) card process statewide as of Thursday, September 2. Clients who have questions regarding their benefits should call 1-800-342-9274 or contact their local DCF office.

More than 1.3 million Floridians currently receive food stamps and Temporary Cash Assistance.

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1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

The Department of Children and Families is committed to working in partnership with local communities to ensure safety, well-being and self-sufficiency for the people we serve.