

HEW NEWS

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HEW DISASTER CHIEF EXPLAINS
SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS
FOR SOUTH DAKOTA FLOOD SURVIVORS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

In a briefing at his ~~disaster~~ agency's disaster field headquarters in ~~Rapid City~~ Rapid City, the Department of Health Education and Welfare's on-the-scene commander, Regional Director Rulon Garfield, explained the special Social Security benefits available for victims of the South Dakota floods:

Social security monthly cash benefits can be paid to the surviving family of a deceased worker who had enough work under social security before his death. Survivors' benefits can be paid to the following dependents, according to Garfield:

--A widow at any age if she is caring for her late husband's children who are under 18 or disabled;

--The worker's unmarried children who are under 18 or disabled, or who are between 18 and 22 if they are full-time students. Children can get benefits on either parent's record;

--a widow between 50 and 60 if she is disabled;

--a widow who is 60 or older, dependent parents who are 62 or older, or a dependent widower 62 or older.

--a dependent disabled widower between 50 and 62;

--a divorced wife, under certain conditions.

Garfield explained that, in addition to monthly benefits, a ~~lump~~ ^{lump} ~~sum~~ death payment can be made after the worker's death. A special expedited payment procedure is being used in the Rapid City disaster, Garfield said.

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Garfield explained that Social Security benefits also are available for many who have been disabled by the flooding. The HEW Regional Director said that benefits can be paid to a worker under 65 who has been disabled severely by injuries incurred in the flooding. Benefits are payable if the disability prevents him from working, and is expected to last for a year or more or to result in death.

According to Garfield, for a disabled worker and his or her family to get benefits, the worker must have credit for a certain amount of work under ~~State~~ Social Security. The regional director said that disability benefits can be paid to:

--a wife at any age if she is caring for her disabled husband's children who are under 18 or disabled;

--the worker's unmarried children who are under 18 or disabled, or who are between 18 and 22 if they are full-time students. Children can get benefits on either parent's record;

--a wife who is 62 or older or, under certain conditions, a divorced wife;

--a dependent husband who is 62 or older.

The HEW disaster ~~staff~~^{chief} said that everyone who applies for disability benefits--whether ~~he~~ or not he gets monthly benefits--is considered for services by the state vocational rehabilitation agency.

Garfield said that the Rapid City District Office of the Social Security Administration is being augmented ~~from~~ with ~~additional~~ claims representatives from throughout South Dakota in order to provide additional service to flood-affected residents. Those who wish additional information or service, should visit the office at 916 Main St., or phone 348-1211.

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