



November Point-in-Time Update on Federal Nutrition Programs During the Government Shutdown

November marks the first time in the history of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that only a partial month's payment in SNAP benefits is being made, and the first time that benefits will be delayed. As millions of people navigate this uncertainty, many are finding ways to stretch resources, support one another, and keep their families nourished. Across the country, food banks and community partners are standing alongside them, working to bridge the gaps in access and ensure neighbors can count on their communities during this moment. The shutdown is jeopardizing funding for critical food programs, leaving individuals and families facing delays, reductions or even interruptions in food benefits, while employees of the federal government and federal contractors have already missed paychecks and pay for military service members could be at risk.

State Investments for Food Banks and Federal Nutrition Programs During the Shutdown

States have been bridging the gap by providing additional support to food banks and SNAP enrollees. Several states have announced that they intend to use additional state funding to bridge the gap in federal funding. However, programs are strongest when they work together to help people put food on the table.

We have seen reports several states have accelerated or committed additional funding to support emergency food assistance and food banks. Specific approaches and investments vary by state:

[Arizona](#), [Arkansas](#), [California](#), [Colorado](#), [Connecticut](#), [Hawaii](#), [Illinois](#), [Maine](#), [Maryland](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Michigan](#), [Minnesota](#), [Missouri](#), [New Hampshire](#), [New Jersey](#), [New York](#), [North Carolina](#), [North Dakota](#), [Ohio](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Oregon](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [Rhode Island](#), [Utah](#), [Vermont](#), [Washington](#) and [West Virginia](#).

November Shutdown Impacts on Federal Nutrition Programs

At Feeding America, we believe in a vision where no one in America is hungry. The government shutdown continues to create immense uncertainty for neighbors, who are navigating this moment with resolve. Below is an update on the status of federal nutrition programs, as of Nov. 10, and what we anticipate about the status of November benefits.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Provides monthly grocery assistance that helps people put food on the table.

November status: On Nov. 1, SNAP benefits lapsed for the first time for more than 40 million participants. Since benefits lapsed, the status of November SNAP benefits has been highly dynamic and subject to change.

- On Nov. 9, a federal appeals court blocked the administration's request to halt the payment of full November SNAP benefits. This follows a federal judge in Rhode Island ordering last week that the administration must provide November benefits in full. Currently, the order to pay full benefits remains paused due to the [Nov. 7 emergency order from the Supreme Court](#). The administration is appealing further, and the timing of payments to states is unclear at this time.
- On Nov. 8, [USDA issued an updated memo to state SNAP agencies](#) in response to the Nov. 7 emergency order from the Supreme Court. The memo says that states should not send out full November benefits but rather should continue to provide partial benefits at 65% of the maximum allotment as previously directed in USDA's [Nov. 5 guidance](#). Under this guidance, most SNAP recipients would receive less than 65% of their full benefit amount due to the benefit calculation formula.
- **Impacts of a prolonged shutdown on SNAP:**
 - Funding for SNAP remains uncertain past November 30, and due to the government shutdown, SNAP recipients will not receive their full November benefits.
 - Even with full monthly benefits, many SNAP beneficiaries run out of SNAP funds by the third week of the month. Receiving partial benefits for November means participants will have even less food access going into Thanksgiving.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):

Provides monthly grocery assistance and other nutrition and health services to pregnant and postpartum women and their young children.

- **November status:** On Nov. 3, \$450 million in additional funding was allocated to WIC via transfer authority from the child nutrition account. This funding is expected to cover at least two weeks of estimated monthly federal funding for the program. WIC funding past mid-November remains uncertain.
- **Impacts of a prolonged shutdown on WIC:**
 - WIC currently serves nearly 6.9 million pregnant and postpartum women, infants and children. A disruption to nutrition benefits and other WIC services would put young children at risk of hunger during a time of critical developmental importance.

- WIC is a lifeline to families it serves, providing more than food assistance. WIC recipients can also access vouchers to purchase infant formula, one-to-one nutrition counseling, breastfeeding support with lactation consultants, and screening and referrals for health care and other programs. A prolonged shutdown threatens access to food and nutrition services relied upon by young families.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP): Moves food from U.S. farms to food banks to families facing hunger.

- **November status:**
 - TEFAP orders are made two to three months in advance, and food banks will likely continue receiving TEFAP foods in the short term. Purchases paid for prior to Oct. 1 are still being delivered as expected. Starting in November, we anticipate some disruptions—especially to TEFAP orders that USDA began working on before the government shutdown but were never completed—and lower than average deliveries are to be expected through December. However, if the government remains closed through November, we anticipate significant interruptions beginning in January 2026, the first month for which very few confirmed orders are currently in place.
- **Impacts of a prolonged shutdown on TEFAP:**
 - Over 20% of the food distributed through Feeding America network food banks and local hunger-relief programs comes from TEFAP. During a shutdown, USDA cannot make additional TEFAP orders or access funds that help food banks offset the cost of storing and transporting TEFAP foods.
 - TEFAP is a hunger lifeline for rural communities, in particular. The Feeding America network distributed TEFAP foods in 96% of rural counties, providing over 326 million pounds of food to neighbors facing hunger in rural areas. The prolonged disruption to TEFAP food deliveries comes as food banks, pantries and meal programs continue working tirelessly to meet sustained community need.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP): Provides seniors with healthy foods through monthly food boxes.

- **November status:** Purchases paid for prior to Oct. 1 were still delivered as expected. However, USDA cannot make new purchases or fulfill new orders during the shutdown. We have heard that some food banks were unable to place orders for November deliveries due to the shutdown, and we expect to see delays in food

deliveries and distribution of CSFP boxes in the coming months if the shutdown continues.

- **Impacts of a prolonged shutdown on CSFP:**
 - Though some food banks have enough inventory to keep making deliveries through December, food banks may only keep up to three months of CSFP inventory on hand.
 - If food banks cannot place orders soon for December and January, they may not have enough food on hand to maintain normal distributions during the busy winter holiday season and into 2026. This may create resulting delays in food assistance through February 2026 or longer.

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR): Provides food to families living on or near Native American reservations.

- **November status:** FDPIR food orders are made in advance, and orders placed and confirmed before Oct.1 were delivered as anticipated. However, there may be disruptions to orders and deliveries toward the end of November, due to potential staff furloughs or operational challenges at both USDA and FDPIR distribution organizations.
- **Impacts of a prolonged shutdown on FDPIR:**
 - FDPIR is funded through mandatory funding; however, there have been news reports emerging around challenges with receiving food at FDPIR distribution sites due to furloughed workers. During previous shutdowns, FDPIR sites facing funding gaps were forced to furlough workers, which had a cascading impact that interrupted food deliveries and distributions to individuals and families.
 - Additionally, there is a dual participation restriction on SNAP or FDPIR (eligible households cannot participate in both programs in the same month).
 - Some FDPIR sites have reported increased demand for food assistance from Native people seeking assistance for the first time and, in some states, there were reports of SNAP beneficiaries being encouraged to move their SNAP benefits to FDPIR to maintain federal food assistance.
 - We expect to see increased demand for food assistance at FDPIR sites through the duration of the shutdown and it will be critical that these sites are able to continue to receive deliveries in a timely manner.

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About Feeding America: Feeding America is the largest hunger-relief organization in the United States. As part of a network of more than 200 food banks, 22 statewide food bank associations, and over 60,000 agency partners, food pantries and meal programs, we helped provide 5.9 billion of millions of people in need last year.