

FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION

Policy Number:	26- 10
Policy Title:	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits Suspended Effective November 1, 2025
Release Date:	October 31, 2025
Effective Date:	November 1, 2025
Approved By:	Augustin Ntabaganyimana Executive Director Family Investment Administration
Revision Date(s):	Not applicable.
Supersedes:	Not applicable.
Originating Office:	Office of Programs
Required Actions:	The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) directs all state agencies to immediately suspend the issuance of SNAP benefit allotments for November 2025 (and any subsequent months).
Key Words:	Suspended SNAP, Federal Shutdown
Related Federal Law	7 CFR 271.7(b)
Related State Laws	Not applicable.

COMAR	Not applicable.
State Plan Implications?	No

 Maryland Department of Human Services 25 S Charles Street Baltimore MD 21201	FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION (FIA) ACTION TRANSMITTAL
Control Number: # 26-10	Effective Date: November 1, 2025
	Issuance Date: October 31, 2025

TO: LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES (LDSS) DIRECTORS, LDSS DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT, FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS, AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF

FROM: AUGUSTIN NTABAGANYIMANA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



RE: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) BENEFITS SUSPENDED EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2025

PROGRAM AFFECTED: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

Summary

Due to the Trump Administration's federal government shutdown that began on October 1, 2025, SNAP benefits are currently guaranteed to eligible households only through October 31, 2025. SNAP benefits are 100 percent federally funded, and SNAP administrative costs are split between the federal and state governments. If the shutdown is not resolved or the federal

government does not issue a new directive, SNAP benefits will not be deposited into customers' Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards for November or subsequent months. The state will continue to process new SNAP applications, but customers who are approved for benefits will not receive them until the shutdown ends or Congress authorizes SNAP funding.

Cash benefits, including the Temporary Disability Assistance Program (TDAP), Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), Public Assistance to Adults (PAA), and Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), will still be issued in November, and Medical Assistance Programs are not affected by the shutdown at this time. Retailers will still be able to accept EBT transactions for customers who have SNAP, cash, and SUN Bucks benefits remaining in their accounts.

The EBT Call Center Interactive Voice Response (IVR) will have the following message: "Due to the federal government shutdown, November SNAP benefits are not available. If you have a balance on your SNAP/CASH account, continue to use those funds." There are no additional changes to the EBT Call Center customer experience when a customer calls the EBT Call Center at 1-800-997-2222.

Policy

Processing Standards and Benefit Issuance

The U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has notified DHS that they are suspending all November 2025 benefit allotments in accordance with 7 CFR 271.7(b) until sufficient federal funding is provided or until FNS directs State agencies otherwise. This suspension is effective immediately for all November issuances.

The benefits availability for households that applied for SNAP before November 1, 2025 is affected as follows:

Expedited SNAP (XSNAP) Approvals

Application Approval Date	Receive Prorated October	Receive November
On or before October 15th	✓ Yes	✗ No
October 16 - October 24th	✓ Yes	✓ Yes
*October 27 - October 31st	✓ Yes	✗ No
On or after November 1st	N/A	✗ No

SNAP Approvals

Application Approval Date	Receive Prorated October	Receive November
On or before October 31st	✓ Yes	✗ No
On or after November 1st	✗ No	✗ No

Customers approved for XSNAP on or after the 16th of the month typically receive benefits for both that month and the following month. However, FNS guidance issued on October 24, 2025 directs states to separate XSNAP issuances and provide only October benefits at this time. XSNAP households approved after October 24th will not receive November benefits.

The suspension of benefits does not alter the certification period assigned to a household. Households that apply and are found eligible during a month when payments are suspended will continue to receive certification periods consistent with the standard eligibility rules established under 7 CFR 273.10. In accordance with 7 CFR 271.7(e), benefit suspension does not affect the eligibility determination process for applicants.

Applications

Applications for SNAP that are received on or after November 1, 2025, must be processed as follows:

- A. Applications received on or after November 1, 2025, that meet expedited criteria must have an interview completed and an eligibility determination made by the sixth calendar day. There are no changes to expedited application processing or timeliness requirements.
- B. Applications received on or after November 1, 2025, that do not meet expedited criteria must have an interview completed and an eligibility determination made by the 30th day, unless delayed due to the household's failure to provide required verification within that timeframe. There are no changes to regular application processing or timeliness requirements.
- C. For both XSNAP and regular SNAP, benefits will be issued immediately upon the restoration of federal funding. Additional guidance regarding Quality Control (QC) impacts will be issued following receipt of federal instructions.

Narration

All cases where eligibility is run for the month of November or any month thereafter will be placed into "pending for EBT issuance" status on the issuance summary page. In addition, the following auto-narration has been added to all cases suspended due to the federal shutdown to include XSNAP cases, effective October 27, 2025.

- *Federal SNAP benefits are suspended effective November 1st due to the government shutdown. The household is eligible to receive benefits, but payments are on hold per a federal directive from FNS. The EBT issuance status is updated".*

Customer Notification

A mass modification notice will be sent to all customers regarding the hold of the November benefits. [SNAP benefits are issued on a staggered schedule between the 4th and 23rd of each month, based on the first three letters of the customer's last name.](#) Because FNS issued the benefit hold directive late, some households may not receive the notice before their scheduled issuance

date. On average, approximately 30,000 customers receive XSNAP benefits on or after the 16th of each month and may be affected by this delay.

Eligibility workers must inform applicants of the temporary benefit hold directive during interviews.

SNAP Redeterminations

SNAP redeterminations must continue in accordance with standard practices. Eligibility workers will continue to process redeterminations and inform customers of the FNS benefit hold order during the interview. Eligibility workers will also continue to pursue necessary verifications to ensure that redeterminations are completed and on time.

Unaffected Programs

The following programs are not impacted by the government shutdown at this time:

- Temporary Cash Assistance
- Temporary Disability Assistance Program
- Refugee Cash Assistance
- Medical Assistance
- SUN Bucks
- Stolen Benefit Restoration
- Public Assistance to Adults
- **SNAP Minimum State Supplement (MSS) benefits for households with individuals aged 60 and older who were eligible in October for MSS and newly approved MSS households.**

We are able to continue benefits under these programs because they are either State-funded or supported by carryover funds from prior years. All households eligible for MSS will receive \$50 in state funded supplemental benefits.

System updates

- A. The system will take the action to suspend and not issue the November and any subsequent benefits impacted by the federal government shutdown. No action is required by eligibility workers.

- B. November benefits will separate XSNAP for applications approved on or after October 27, 2025.
- C. MD Benefits will suspend the following EBT file transmissions:
 - a. Month-end processing of November SNAP benefits Daily SNAP issuances for new applicants, underpayments, or reopened cases
 - b. SNAP recoupments for overpayments
- D. The following EBT processing activities will continue:
 - a. Month-end processing for all CASH benefits
 - b. SNAP Minimum State Supplement (MSS) benefits for households with individuals aged 60 and older who were eligible in October for MSS and newly approved MSS households
 - c. SUN Bucks issuance
 - d. Replacement of EBT Stolen benefits for SNAP and Cash claims
 - e. Demographic files to initiate EBT card production and address changes.

Work Requirements

The federal shutdown does not impact the [Food and Nutrition Service's \(FNS\) guidance](#) on implementing [H.R. 1 \(2025\)](#) changes to SNAP. Customers subject to work requirements must be advised to maintain compliance. Continued adherence will ensure their cases remain active and that benefits can be issued promptly once states receive authorization from FNS to resume payments. Existing and new work requirements have not changed at this time, and eligibility workers are required to assess for instances of good cause in the event an individual is non-compliant. See [Section 106.8](#) of the SNAP Manual.

Required Action

Eligibility workers must continue to process all applications, redeterminations, interim changes, and Maryland Benefits Reviews (MBR) in a timely manner.

Pursuant to COMAR 07.01.04.06D, LDSS may file a motion to dismiss a customer's hearing request for those households who are only disputing the fact that the suspension was ordered. Fair hearing requests are permitted

provided the conditions in 7 CFR 271.7(f) are met.

Refer households to the following resources, as needed:

- a. Food pantries and community kitchens, including [the Maryland Food Bank](#) and [Capital Area Food Bank](#);
- b. [211 Maryland](#);
- c. [Support in finding a new job](#) through 33 [American Job Centers](#) and a specialized [Professional Outplacement Assistance Center](#), including individualized career guidance, résumé workshops, mock interviews, career and skills assessment, effective job search strategies, and networking support;
- d. [Additional career resources](#), such as information on transitioning to a teaching career;
- e. [A weekly virtual workshop](#) designed specifically for former federal employees and federal contractors, and attended by more than 1,700 workers to date;
- f. [Job fairs and recruitment events](#);
- g. [Unemployment insurance](#);
- h. [Resources for veterans](#);
- i. [Legal resources](#); and
- j. Resources related to [health coverage](#), [housing](#), [food](#), [cash](#), and [other assistance](#).

Resources

[FY 2026 Shutdown and Nutrition Programs](#)
[Section 106.8](#) of the SNAP Manual

Inquiries

Please direct policy questions to FIA Policy by completing the [FIA Policy Information Request Form](#). Montgomery County staff may submit their policy questions via email at fia.policy@maryland.gov.

cc: DHS Executive Staff
Constituent Services
DHS Help Desk
FIA Management Staff
Office of Administrative Hearings