

Federal Shutdown – Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP) Impact

On November 3rd, the USDA said it would use contingency funds to provide **50% of a household's monthly benefit amount for November 2025**. We are still awaiting additional information on when these funds will be available and will continue to update this page as we learn more.

The issuance of the November SNAP benefits is delayed due to the federal shutdown. This delay will significantly affect the 1 in 6 Massachusetts residents with very low incomes who rely on the SNAP program to buy groceries each month.

SNAP benefits are usually issued during the first two weeks of the month, so the number of people impacted will be determined by how long the delay continues in November.

Our patients and families will be impacted and may seek answers and guidance. Below are some key points to consider. There are also resources, including Epic Tip Sheets, listed at the end of the document.

Key Messages to Share with Patients

1. Existing balances are not affected

- Households can spend existing benefits on their card. They will not be lost.
- SNAP users can call the phone number on the back of the EBT card for an accurate balance.

2. SNAP users with a balance on their EBT card can still use HIP benefits

- If SNAP recipients keep \$.01 or more on their EBT into November, they will have access to the state-funded [HIP program](#), which includes \$40-80/month per household to purchase fruit and vegetables at farmers markets, farm stands, Fresh Truck, etc.

3. Encourage continued compliance with SNAP requirements

- Patients should still submit required paperwork, recertifications, reports, or interviews on time. Even if benefits are delayed, maintaining eligibility is crucial. They should still apply if they are interested/eligible.
- Households can spend any SNAP that remains on their EBT card. When the delay is over, SNAP will be issued retroactively, and they must complete any Interim Reports or Recertifications due (even though benefits are delayed).

4. Impact on other programs

- There is no immediate impact on WIC.
- DTA cash benefits (TAFDC, EAEDC) and school meals are not impacted.

5. **Stay informed and encourage patients to do the same**

- Advise patients to watch for updates from DTA, check their EBT account for postings, and listen to local news or check the state DTA website for updates. www.mass.gov/SNAPupdates
- DTA is communicating to SNAP users by text, email, phone calls, etc.

6. **Provide alternative food-support resources**

- Let them know about local food pantries, community meal programs, and statewide hotlines. See below.
- You can reference the **EPIC Food Resource Tip Sheets** on the SDOH Vitals Page. The Tip Sheets are by region and are in multiple languages. Use this link: [Health Equity - Documents - Food - All Documents](#)

Emergency food resources:

- Call Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline: 1-800-645-8333
- Call Mass 2-1-1 or visit <https://mass211.org/>
- Contact the Food Bank in your area. Most websites have interactive maps to search for nearby pantries:
 - Greater Boston Food Bank: GBFB.org/need-food
 - Food Bank of Western MA: FoodbankWMA.org/get-help/
 - Worcester County Food Bank: Foodbank.org/find-food/
 - Merrimack Valley Food Bank: <https://mvfb.org/pantry-schedule>
 - [Food Resource Guides — Vital CxNs](#) (by Boston neighborhood)
- The State has also provided similar resources on Mass.gov/SNAPFreeze