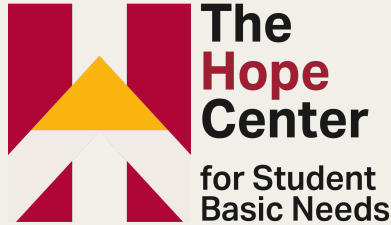


Supporting Students Guide



Supporting Students Through the November 2025 SNAP Cliff & Federal Government Shutdown

Created by The Hope Center for Student Basic Needs at Temple University

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NEW: The federal government has reopened after Congress sent a bill to the President that he signed into law. SNAP payments are likely to be processed within a few days. Future SNAP payments are funded through September 30, 2026.

During the federal government shutdown, the Administration was reluctant to release November SNAP payments using contingency funds and several court rulings and appeals created a complex situation. With the federal government reopened, full SNAP payments can be made for the rest of Fiscal Year 2026. The litigation over contingency funds is now moot.

Regular, full payments will be sent to recipients within days (including any retroactive amounts for November that are owed). Partial payments are no longer needed or required, but the ongoing litigation over contingency funds could establish precedent in the event of a future shutdown after September 30, 2026.

We understand the confusion and challenges this has caused. The delay and uncertainty has stretched food banks and pantries to the brink on the eve of Thanksgiving and other holidays. There have been damaging effects on student basic needs security from this difficult period. Some students had to choose between food and paying rent/bills.

Even with the immediate crisis now resolved, challenges for students are likely to [reverberate](#) for some time. This guide offers ways that students, states, and institutions can help address the hunger and food insecurity that college students routinely experience. We plan to update this guide in the coming days to reflect the still-urgent situation that exists even after the immediate crisis of the SNAP cliff.

We deeply appreciate your interest in supporting students and your communities.

Purpose of This Guide

The Hope Center is here to help institutions, systems of higher education, states, and college students looking for clarity and guidance as they face disruptions to federal support, including the [unprecedented delay](#) in SNAP disbursements in November 2025 **during the federal government shutdown and on the eve of the fall holiday season.**

The document is organized into sections; you can navigate between sections using the table of contents or by simply scrolling through the document.

- Hint: On **desktop**, click on the  menu in the top left corner of the document to see the table of contents. On **mobile**, click the “...” in the top right corner and select “document outline.”

We will continue to update this guide as the situation evolves and welcome all who use it to contribute their own examples of action and outreach in this time of crisis for our students and our communities.

Please send ideas for the guide to the Hope Impact Partnerships team at hip-info@temple.edu or submit your ideas using [this form](#).

Background: SNAP Disruptions during the Shutdown

Millions of students in higher education already [experienced](#) food insecurity, which prevents them from focusing on their studies and supporting their families, and [leads many to drop out](#) of college altogether. This unacceptable reality existed before the SNAP cliff, although the situation is exacerbating the harm on students.

The **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** (SNAP), formerly known as “food stamps,” is our country's primary tool for providing food access to the 42 million Americans who would otherwise lack sufficient food, including an estimated [1.1 million students](#) in higher education. SNAP also serves 16 million children, 8 million seniors, and 1.2 million veterans.

Students who are enrolled more than half-time are eligible for SNAP if they meet a [series of eligibility criteria](#), which can provide them with hundreds of dollars per month to spend on food and help them stay on track to graduate.

During the federal government shutdown, the Trump Administration initially [chose to delay](#) the disbursement of SNAP benefits for November until the government shutdown ended, despite having contingency funds available to make payments as they have [always done](#) during previous shutdowns and emergencies. The Administration also declined to use its transfer authority, as it has for other programs, to ensure full payments. This caused a major and unexpected disruption in benefits for students and families who normally receive SNAP each month. After this initial decision by the Administration, the following occurred:

- 25 state attorneys general and governors sued the Administration over their initial refusal to use contingency (emergency) funds for SNAP.
- On October 31, two U.S. District Court (federal) judges [ordered](#) the Administration to use the contingency funds to make SNAP payments.
- On November 3, the Administration [agreed to release](#) \$4.65 billion in SNAP contingency funds following the court rulings.
- The Administration made [conflicting statements](#) about its intentions for partial payments, including an initial tweet by the President which suggested they might defy the court's orders, which was later clarified by the White House Press Secretary.
- USDA released [guidance](#) on November 4 indicating that partial, 50 percent payments would be issued to recipients. [Advocates](#) pushed back. USDA then

[updated their guidance](#) a day later, on November 5, to announce that benefits would be issued at 65 percent of the typical maximum allotment.

- Many states, cities, and nonprofits expressed significant concerns with the partial payment plan, which could have required manual adjustments and overrides, and would have left some SNAP recipients without any payments at all. A range of parties, including state attorneys general, sued the Administration over its partial payments plan and demanded full payments.
- On November 6, one of the federal judges agreed and [ordered](#) full payments to be issued, but the Administration appealed that decision.
- On Friday, November 7, USDA sent [guidance](#) to state SNAP agencies indicating that they were “*working towards implementing November 2025 full benefit issuances.*” This seemed to suggest that the Administration might be prepared to drop its fight against making full payments.
- Around the same time, on Friday November 7, the Administration appealed the district judge’s decision to the appeals court. They were [denied](#) an emergency stay, and [asked SCOTUS](#) to step in to reverse the lower courts’ decisions.
- SCOTUS granted a temporary stay to allow time for the appeals court to rule on the substance of the Administration’s appeal.
- Late on November 8, the Administration [demanded](#) that states that had distributed any full benefit payments must claw back those funds or face penalties. They also directed states to begin processing partial payments. Only some states did so.
- Congress passed a bill to reopen the government. This bill obviated the need for partial payments, although it will have other effects on students’ basic needs security (such as contributing to the loss of ACA coverage).
- On November 9, as Congress worked to finalize a funding bill, the appeals court ruled that the Administration [should](#) release full SNAP payments during the shutdown.
- On November 10, the Administration [appealed](#) the circuit court’s ruling, asking for a final judgment by the Supreme Court, which is still pending but now moot.
- Congress passed into law a bill that [funds SNAP](#) through the remainder of FY 2026 (September 30, 2026). Full payments will be disbursed.

SNAP benefits have never been delayed for an extended period, or been issued as only partial payments, in the [60-year history](#) of the SNAP program.

Food banks and pantries have been supporting as many people as possible, but they cannot replace SNAP. Food banks and pantries provide an estimated [1 meal for every 9 meals that SNAP provides](#). Students and communities are likely to experience a **sharp rise in food insecurity** and hunger as a result of this delay and disruption to their benefits, which may reverberate even after the crisis is resolved.

SNAP recipients did not see any new money added to their accounts on the typical November 1 disbursement date, even if they later received payments.

SNAP is federally funded, and no state has the resources to fully replace it with its own funds, even on a temporary basis. **SNAP has a different name in every state.** [Click here to find the name and link of the SNAP program in each state.](#)

We recommend that institutions, systems, states, recipients, and students continue to respond to the increase in food and security and community needs during the holiday season.

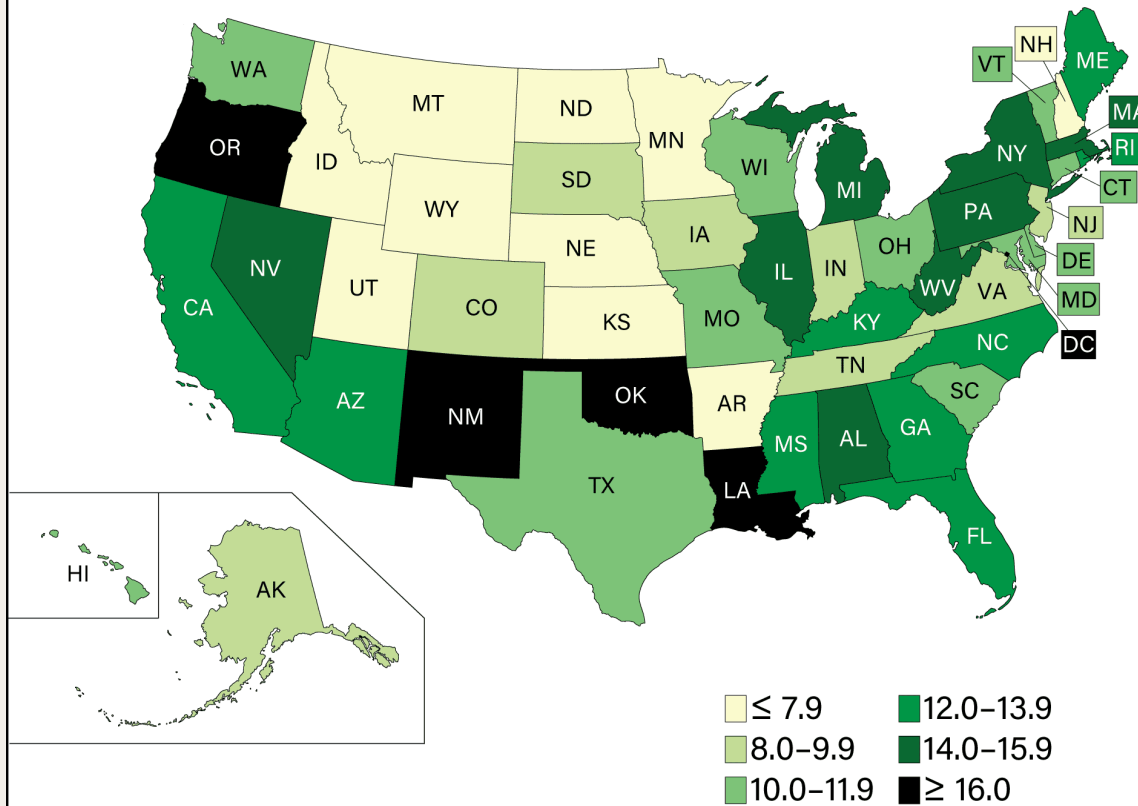
Fast Facts:

- This unprecedented disruption (and potential decrease) of SNAP benefits adds yet another **strain on families, food banks, and emergency supports**, at a time when food prices are rising and millions of federal workers are going without paychecks.
- Normal SNAP benefits average only about [\\$6 per day](#), or up to \$9 per day for households with no income. Partial payments of 65% could mean households must survive on only **\$4 per day on average**, which is even less sufficient to meet minimum adult nutrition requirements in the United States. Many households will receive no benefits at all if only partial payments are issued, due to complex SNAP formulas.
- USDA's decision earlier this year to cut nearly [\\$1 billion in federal aid](#) for food banks and anti-hunger programs has further limited the capacity for states and communities to provide food assistance.

- In addition to impacts on individuals and food banks, a complete loss of SNAP benefits would result in approximately [\\$8 billion in delayed or lost revenue for grocery stores](#), with the biggest effects on **independent grocers in low-income areas**, which may rely on SNAP for over [half of their sales](#).
- The delay and reduction in SNAP payment comes on top of numerous [policy changes](#) to SNAP eligibility under the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025* (OBBA), which could impact students who had been qualifying for SNAP under waivers or exemptions being modified, or students enrolled less than half-time. The changes are estimated to cut \$187 billion from the SNAP program, and [4 million](#) people will lose all or a substantial portion of their benefits over the next decade.
- An October [survey](#) of more than 2,500 SNAP users who use the Propel app to track their EBT benefits found that 72% of respondents are **“extremely stressed”** about their ability to afford food if November deposits are delayed or canceled because of the shutdown, and 44% said they **would skip meals** if they don’t receive their November SNAP benefits.
- Food banks and charitable organizations **cannot fill the void** left by SNAP. It is estimated that [SNAP provides nine meals for every one](#) that can be provided by food banks.
- **Any SNAP benefits that remained on EBT cards** as of November 1 from prior months’ disbursements can still be used, but the federal government has not disbursed any new funds for November. (See [above](#) for latest information).
- When the delay is over, full **SNAP allotments should be issued retroactively**.
- Recipients **must complete any interim reporting or recertification requirements that are due** during the delay.
- People may continue to **apply for SNAP benefits**. Although some states have suspended application processing during the shutdown, recipients typically get their benefits prorated to their application date. So, applying earlier is better.

While student uptake of SNAP is lower than among the general population, the following percentages of state residents participate in SNAP:

Percent of population receiving SNAP benefits in fiscal year 2024



SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using USDA, Food and Nutrition Service data and U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census data.

Want to learn more about who benefits from SNAP in your state?

- Check out the [state-by-state fact sheets](#) from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities or this [NPR](#) article.

FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Recommendations for institutions

Many colleges and universities are [preparing for the surge in demand](#) for basic needs resources, from food pantries to financial aid, as a result of the November SNAP cliff. We provide suggestions that may be relevant for:

- College administrators, deans, and presidents
- Student advisors and academic or student support staff
- Financial aid offices
- Counseling, health, and wellness services
- Communications and outreach
- Faculty, instructors, and instructional support staff
- Student affairs and student life
- Community engagement
- Governing boards (trustees, regents, etc.)

While each institution's resources and context differ, we suggest that you can show your students you are invested in their well-being and success by:

- **Communicating** with students about what the lapse in benefits means and what resources may exist to support them, through email, keeping websites up to date, student/faculty/staff portals, social media, and more
 - *See additional communication guidance below, or find templates for outreach to students in the [OUTREACH](#) section.*
- Expanding **emergency aid** administered by the institution or its affiliated foundations and other forms of direct financial assistance (such as grocery gift cards)
- **Extending hours** and increasing stock in campus food pantries, if you have them
- Conducting **food and donation drives** that support basic needs resources on campus and emergency aid programs, including through alumni and advancement campaigns
- **Coordinating** related food assistance benefits on campus and in your local area, from campus dining services to [community food banks](#)
- Building **connections between financial aid** and basic needs, including helping students with financial aid appeals, emergency aid applications, and ensuring sufficient staffing

- Continuing to **help students apply** for federal, state, or local benefits where possible, including through basic needs hubs or navigators, so that all resources are utilized and more funding will flow to students when the shutdown ends

It is important to remember that all students' basic needs are interconnected. When resources for food run dry, students may redirect limited cash or savings that they would otherwise spend on rent, transportation, and childcare, toward purchasing groceries.

As a result, food insecurity can lead to other cascading consequences. All resources for students' basic needs are helpful during this time.

Additionally, the November SNAP cliff is deeply impacting the communities that surround campuses, including faculty, staff, and other individuals who are not enrolled in college. Please consider these elevated levels of need as you work to coordinate and expand resources.

Informing students about the SNAP cliff

Institutions can help alleviate the extreme stress of food insecurity and uncertainty at this difficult time—and show students they care—by providing accurate, timely information about what is happening and how students can access support. For example, Temple University President John Fry sent an [all-student email](#) on Wednesday, November 5.

We recommend that colleges and universities inform students (as well as faculty and staff) about the current status of SNAP, where they can get needed support, and how to help if they are in a position to do so. Some institutions may also want to communicate with the community or alumni, especially to collection donations.

- Provide up-to-date information about the **SNAP situation**.
 - Refer to the [FOR STUDENTS](#) section in this guide and connect with state and community partners (e.g., departments of health and human services, offices that assist with SNAP applications), to ensure your updates are timely and accurate.
- Provide the following information about **campus resources**:
 - Campus basic needs lead/department contact information (e.g. food pantry, basic needs navigator/hub, or other office)

- Campus basic needs website
- Campus counseling contact information & website
- Campus financial aid offices for students who may need an adjustment to their financial aid awards due to unforeseen costs
- Provide the following information about **community resources**:
 - Contact information and/or websites of community partners
 - Contact information and/or websites for other community organizations
 - General resource links, including but not limited to:
 - <https://www.foodpantries.org>
 - <https://www.mutualaidhub.org>
 - <https://www.211.org/get-help/food-programs-food-benefits>
- Provide **opportunities to contribute** for those who are in a position to do so:
 - Volunteer opportunities
 - Donation opportunities
 - Practical advice for supporting those impacted
 - See the [How students can help their peers](#) section for more ideas.
- When possible, refer students to **specific individuals** on campus or at local agencies who can help answer their questions.

Find templates for outreach to students in the [OUTREACH](#) section.

Additional ideas for institutions and systems

Beyond the recommendations above, we suggest that colleges explore steps such as:

- Continuously updating and expanding websites that describe resources and ways for the community to support student food security. We recommend steps such as:
 - Ensuring food pantry, locker, closet, or food pickup-related websites affiliated with the institution have **specific and up-to-date information** related to this unprecedented SNAP cliff and ways to contribute.

- Making sure that student/faculty/staff portals and relevant campus websites, including financial aid, provide **actionable resources** for students where they can go to find real help or someone to speak with. For example, [Temple University](#) is maintaining a page with resources for students and ways for the community to help. The [University of Maine System](#) is operating a page throughout the current cliff and shutdown. The [Alamo Colleges District](#) sent out a reminder of campus and community resources for food, clothing, mental health, and affordable healthcare, and the [Michigan Community College Association](#) shared a resource with their member institutions.
- Providing easy opportunities to [get involved](#) by volunteering or donating. An Amazon wishlist that directly supports the campus food pantry is one way for supporters to donate the exact items you need most, although many food pantries prefer cash donations. For example, the [University of Nebraska-Lincoln](#) and [Tulane University](#) both direct individuals to the best ways to donate. If possible, make it easy to donate with “one-click” such as Apple Pay, Google Pay, or PayPal. The [University of Washington](#) maintains a set of marketing tools for the community to support food drives and donations.
- Enacting or expanding [meal swipe programs](#), like those supported by [Swipe Out Hunger](#), which can be used to distribute campus meals for institutions that have on-campus dining
- Providing discounted or free meals for SNAP recipients at campus dining venues.
- If your campus does not yet have a food pantry, locker, pickup, or similar initiative, consider creating one. [Swipe Out Hunger](#) has resources to help anyone on campus get started.
- Better connecting benefits outreach and access into existing campus or institutional systems and platforms, including financial aid and enrollment, to more seamlessly link students to resources that meet their interrelated needs before crises occur.
- Halting all collections of institutional debts incurred to pay for unpaid campus fees, fines, or other expenses, and considering waivers for any institutional debts for

students who are facing financial strain. For example, [Delaware State University](#) is urging students who were impacted by the shutdown to apply for their student payments to be deferred.

- Teaming up with local government, nonprofit, religious organizations--or campus bookstores--that may be able to provide services for your students in need. [University of Nevada, Las Vegas](#) is partnering with the local Three Square Food Bank for an emergency food distribution event on November 1st, serving 1,000 households.
- Connecting with local [restaurants](#) and [grocery stores](#) to ask for their support for students. Many are [stepping up](#) to offer discounts or free [meals](#), especially for children, which may be helpful for parenting students. [DoorDash](#) has announced an emergency program waiving certain fees.
- Widely promoting campus emergency aid programs and ensuring that application processes are simple, that it is clear SNAP recipients who have lost their benefits are eligible, and that funds can be disbursed quickly.
- Hosting community meals and encouraging student groups/clubs to provide food at their events and/or hold food drives at their [events](#).
- Reaching out to current and past campus donors and alumni (e.g., from your institution's foundation, advancement office, or alumni office) to support your institution's emergency aid fund and/or food pantry through a special fundraising campaign.
 - Consider a matching campaign to boost impact: At [Point Park University](#), a generous donor will match up to \$5,000 in funds donated to support local pantries and kitchens responding to the SNAP cliff.
- Elevating the SNAP cliff guide issue with local press and media to help drive additional community support and interest in helping students. For example, colleges in California's [Central Coast](#) spoke with the local evening news, featuring the institutions' food pantries.
- Leveraging institutional data to send targeted outreach emails to populations who may be most impacted, including Pell Grant recipients, Federal Work Study

participants, and parenting students, to connect them with campus basic needs centers and community resources.

- Maintaining contact with your county SNAP office to ensure you have the most recent information. You can find a list of local office locations by clicking on your state in the [USDA directory](#).
 - Aligning your messaging with county and state agencies and encouraging them to continue enrolling eligible students in SNAP during the shutdown. Michigan State University Extension has announced the launch of a [Community Food Assistance website](#), offering resources and tips for stretching food budgets and connecting people to local services.
 - Surveying students about their basic needs on a regular basis to help amplify the evidence for addressing food and other basic needs insecurity, discovering policy solutions, identifying populations who have elevated levels of need, and preparing for future challenges or crises.
-

FOR STUDENTS

The uncertainty around whether and when SNAP benefits will be disbursed creates understandable stress and confusion.

For **current or potential SNAP recipients** (sometimes called beneficiaries), or other impacted students at risk of food insecurity, here's what you need to know:

- You can **spend any SNAP benefits that remain on your EBT cards from October payments.**
- When the delay is over, **SNAP should be issued retroactively.**
- You **must continue to complete any reporting or recertification requirements** during the delay.

- You may still **apply for SNAP benefits**. Although some states have suspended application processing during the shutdown, recipients typically get their benefits prorated to their application date. Applying earlier is better.

Additionally, to **help with food insecurity**:

- Consider looking for an on-campus food pantry, basic needs office/hub/navigator on your campus, or local food bank to help you find temporary food support.
- The financial aid office may have information on emergency financial aid grants. In some cases, you could potentially [appeal](#) your financial aid package—ask your financial aid office whether there might be additional federal, state, or institutional grant resources available for students with special financial circumstances.
- If you have not taken out your full eligibility for federal student loans, consider the tradeoffs. Federal student loans are a useful tool for many students to help afford their basic needs so they can stay enrolled and graduate.
- Remember that **you are not alone**. Millions of students and U.S. households struggle with basic needs insecurity—an [unacceptable reality](#) that we are [working to change](#). You **deserve to be a student** despite the policy failures of the federal government.

How students can help their peers

Students also play a key role in helping their peers address hunger and basic needs insecurity on and off campus. We recommend that students consider:

- **Volunteering** with campus food pantries, community food banks, or other campus basic needs offices, to help them with distribution efforts.
- Inquiring with your **financial aid office** about [work-study opportunities](#) that support basic needs work on campus.
- Participating in or helping to organize **donation campaigns**, including those that involve faculty, staff, and the nearby campus community, to support food pantries or emergency aid.
- Engaging with your **student government** to see how they are responding to the November SNAP cliff.

- **Elevating the issue** of the November SNAP cliff and **calling for more campus or policy action** in the [student newspaper](#), on social media, or by contacting your state and federal representatives.
 - **Showing care and support** for fellow students who may be experiencing food insecurity by listening, sharing resources, or sharing meals. Emotional support is important, too—food insecurity is stressful!
 - Encouraging student orgs to **provide food** at their events or host **community meals**.
-

FOR STATES

States are taking a wide range of steps to notify SNAP recipients, and community food banks and partners, of the November SNAP cliff, and some are attempting to backfill or surge state funding where possible to help alleviate the harm.

Twenty-nine states and territories (to the best of our knowledge, as of November 6th) have announced or passed funding to help cover the need while SNAP benefits are delayed—Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Guam, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Northern Mariana Islands, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia.

As of November 11th, the AP reported that [more than one quarter of states](#) had not distributed any SNAP benefits in November.

Recommendations for states

SNAP is federally funded, and no state has the resources to fully replace it with its own funds, even on a temporary basis. However, there are many actions states can take to soften the impact of delayed and reduced SNAP payments for students and their communities:

- Leveraging any and all available funds to ensure that people in your state are not going hungry. This may involve temporarily backfilling SNAP payments or supplementing food bank support.
- Surging resources for food banks and other food assistance programs with personnel and financial resources. This could include mobilizing volunteer networks and/or your state's [National Guard](#) to help with the increased demand so that food banks can expand their hours, increase their stock, and serve more people.
- Preparing for additional demand on other resources, including assistance for housing, utilities, medical bills, and mental health. Increased food insecurity has ripple effects on all areas of individuals' lives.
- Maintaining a centralized state website with the most current information and guidance from the state, including the specific impact on students, who face outsized barriers to SNAP. This includes highlighting food assistance resources.
- Creating or expanding state-level emergency funds for college students, including ensuring that the application and disbursement processes are streamlined so that resources can get into students' hands quickly.
- Calculating the impact of SNAP uptake and clearly communicating it to institutions and the public to help communities respond with students in mind. For example, California has estimated that [330,000 students](#) statewide would be impacted.
- Facilitating coordinated, statewide student basic needs efforts and conversations, including by modeling other state actions to create basic needs task forces, coordinating groups, and councils, and to embed basic needs strategies into state higher education and attainment plans.

Examples of actions by states & territories

In [Alaska](#), Governor Gov. Mike Dunleavy issued a state disaster declaration and announced that state funds will be used to refill benefit cards and offer money to food banks.

[Arizona](#) Governor Katie Hobbs announced that she is deploying \$1.8 million in ARPA funds for food banks across the state.

[California](#) is dedicating up to \$80 million in state funds, the California National Guard, and California Volunteers to support food banks during the shutdown. A joint letter from the CSU, UC, and CCC systems, California Association of Food Banks, and CHC CalFresh Outreach and Resource Hub sent a letter to campus partners recommending on-campus, and off-campus actions and providing contacts and resources.

In [Colorado](#), The Joint Budget Committee of the state legislature approved Governor Jared Polis' request for \$10 million in emergency food bank support, which will be distributed through the Community Food Assistance Grant Program.

[Connecticut](#) Governor Ned Lamont announced that the state would allocate \$3 million to stock local food pantries over the first two weeks of November.

In [Delaware](#), Governor Matt Meyer has declared a state of emergency and is using state funds to pay out SNAP benefits weekly. The [Department of Health and Social Services](#) maintains a website with information about SNAP delays due to the shutdown and the new SNAP work requirements, with information about food assistance resources.

[Guam](#) passed a law providing \$12.3 million for SNAP and \$800,000 for WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) to fund the programs through the month of November.

In [Hawaii](#), Governor Josh Green announced that families with children whose SNAP benefits are delayed (about 1/3 of SNAP recipients) will receive up to \$110 million in TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) benefits.

[Illinois](#) Governor JB Pritzker signed an executive order giving \$20 million in funding to support seven food banks, supplying over 2,600 food pantries across Illinois.

In [Kentucky](#), Governor Andy Beshear has declared a state of emergency and directed \$5 million from the budget reserve trust fund to Feeding Kentucky food banks.

The [Louisiana House of Representatives](#) voted unanimously for an “urgent request” that would allow state money to be used for the SNAP program until the federal shutdown ends. Partial SNAP payments were distributed using state funds November 1-4 for [elderly and disabled SNAP recipients](#). Others initially received payments but the money was then [rescinded](#).

In [Maine](#), Gov. Janet Mills announced \$1 million from the governor's contingency account and \$250k from the John T. Gorman Foundation will go to fund Maine food pantries and anti-hunger programs.

In [Maryland](#), Governor Wes Moore declared a state of emergency and tapped \$10 million in funds to help food banks across the state.

[Massachusetts](#) is treating the SNAP cliff like a natural disaster, partnering with United Way to launch the United Respond Fund to raise money for food access organizations. The [Massachusetts Law Reform Institute](#) maintains a dynamic guide to the federal government shutdown and its impact on SNAP.

In [Michigan](#), House Democrats have proposed a bill to provide up to \$900 million for SNAP benefits. Two separate bills would provide an additional \$12.5 million to the Food Bank Council of America and food pantry programs.

In [Minnesota](#), Governor Walz announced that the Department of Human Services' emergency services account and the Family First Prevention Services Act will be used to distribute \$4 million through Minnesota's existing food shelf network and tribal nations. The Department of Children, Youth, and Families also maintains a [website](#) with shutdown updates and resources.

The [Mississippi Department of Human Services](#) maintains a website with federal shutdown updates focused on SNAP benefits and food assistance resources.

In [Missouri](#), Governor Mike Kehoe is transferring \$10.6 million from the Senior Services Growth and Development fund to Missouri Area Agencies on Aging to provide meals to seniors across the state. Another \$5 million in TANF funding will be given to Missouri food banks.

New Hampshire's Department of Health and Human Services proposed a contingency plan to partner with [New Hampshire Food Bank's mobile food pantry program](#) to open up

to 20 mobile pantry locations just for SNAP recipients, twice a week for the next five weeks.

In [New Jersey](#), Governor Phil Murphy declared a state of emergency to fast-track supplemental state funding for food banks.

[New Mexico](#) Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham declared a state of emergency and announced that the state will spend \$30 million to disburse about 30% of November's SNAP benefits (i.e., to cover through November 10th) to each SNAP recipient. She has called for [another special legislative session](#) on November 10th to appropriate more state funding.

In [New York](#), Governor Hochul has announced \$30 million in State funds to support over 16 million meals and \$11 million to support local emergency food relief.

[North Carolina](#) Attorney General Jeff Jackson said in a press conference that partial SNAP benefits would be distributed on November 7th.

[North Dakota](#) Governor Kelly Armstrong announced \$900k will be sent to the Great Plains Food Bank (the state's only food bank, supporting nearly 200 partner food pantries, shelters, and soup kitchens across the state).

[Northern Mariana Islands](#) Governor Gov. David M. Apatang formally requested a \$3.9 million emergency appropriation to sustain their Nutrition Assistance Program for November.

In [Ohio](#), the state has sent \$7 million to eight regional food banks. \$18 million will be going out as emergency relief for more than 63,000 Ohioans, mostly children, whose household income is at or below 50% of the federal poverty level.

In [Oklahoma](#), lawmakers voted to dedicate \$7 million from the State Emergency Fund to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma over seven weeks. [Tribal nations](#) and [non-governmental organizations](#) are also ramping up efforts.

[Oregon](#) Governor Tina Kotek on Wednesday declared a state of emergency and directed \$5 million to food banks across the state.

In [Pennsylvania](#), the state is pushing out \$5 million in funding to help food banks across Pennsylvania, with another \$2 million raised so far in matching funds.

In [Rhode Island](#), Governor Dan McKee is using TANF funds to distribute partial SNAP benefits to individuals who qualify for both TANF and SNAP (about 45% of Rhode Island SNAP recipients).

In [South Carolina](#), Governor Henry McMaster announced the activation of the Central Carolina Community Foundation's One SC Fund (will allow for a coordinated charitable giving campaign for food banks) and directed the South Carolina State Guard to assist food banks statewide.

In the [U.S. Virgin Islands](#), the Department of Human Services, in coordination with the Department of Finance, will issue a check to each SNAP household covering half of its November monthly allotment.

[Vermont](#) lawmakers have pledged to fully fund SNAP and LIHEAP benefits amid the federal government shutdown, according to a statement from legislative leaders.

[Virginia](#) Governor Glenn Youngkin has declared a state of emergency to use the state's surplus to ensure food assistance benefits continue through federal government shutdown.

[Washington](#) Governor Bob Ferguson announced \$2.2 million in weekly funding for food banks during the SNAP cliff.

[Washington DC](#) Mayor Muriel Bowser is using city contingency funds to pay out SNAP and WIC benefits.

[West Virginia](#) Governor Patrick Morrisey announced that he will expedite \$1.1 million in appropriated and emergency funding to food banks in West Virginia.

FOR POLICY ADVOCATES

- Encourage the Administration to provide full SNAP benefit payments for November using untapped sources of revenue, as they have for other federal programs. Use the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) tools to [contact Congress](#) or use their [digital toolkit](#).

- [Encourage Congress](#) to pass a bill to fund SNAP, such as the bipartisan *Keep SNAP Funded Act of 2025* or the *Keep SNAP and WIC Funded Act of 2025*, or to resolve the government shutdown through bipartisan negotiations.
- Contact [state lawmakers](#) and encourage them to temporarily backfill state funds for SNAP, if possible, and provide additional resources for community and campus services, such as food pantries.
- Ask state agencies and lawmakers to robustly fund student emergency aid programs, campus benefits navigators, and centralized basic needs centers.
- Encourage Congress to [reform the SNAP student rules](#), which are outdated, overly complex, and prevent many eligible students from participating, and contribute to low levels of student uptake
- Remind your state and federal representatives of how many people [in your state](#) depend on SNAP and the impact on local businesses.
- Share your own personal experiences with SNAP and how important it is/was for you.
- Share stories of the impact of the current shutdown and recent cuts to SNAP, Medicaid, and other critical programs for working adults.
- Campuses should also document student needs and convey these to policymakers, including student basic needs surveys.

OUTREACH TEMPLATES

Below is a template for a campus, institution-wide, system-wide, or even statewide email that can be customized for your students, faculty, and staff by filling in the specific

resources available to them, both on- and off-campus, and the ways they can help during the SNAP cliff.

Tailored communication could be sent

- **One large community-wide email**, given that the SNAP cliff will impact both SNAP recipients and non-recipients alike, by substantially squeezing community resources like food banks and pantries and creating substantial pressure on other types of basic needs;
- Directly to students currently receiving SNAP, if that information is available through institution or state-level data systems. For example, the FAFSA includes information on which applications for federal financial aid have reported that anyone in their household (including themselves) received SNAP in the previous two years, although this is not a complete list of recipients; or
- Multiple different audiences simultaneously with customization (e.g., faculty and staff, the full student body, student government, students receiving SNAP, campus partners in the local community).

The gray text requires customization, and we encourage you to also customize the branding and language to suit your campus community.

Additional templates will be added in the coming days. If you would like to contribute a template, example, or recommendation for resources The Hope Center can provide, please reach out to us via email at hip-info@temple.edu or using [this form](#).

Email template

As noted at the top of this guide, the situation with the SNAP cliff remains fluid. We are actively monitoring the situation and updating this guide and template in real time.

We recommend consulting the [top of this guide](#) for the latest information on the SNAP state of play to ensure that policy-related updates are accurate.

Regardless of the resolution of the current policy crisis, there are **still damaging effects** on basic needs security resulting from the SNAP cliff.

However, institutions, systems, and states can (and should) discuss student, faculty, and staff notices like the one below.

Dear [insert student's name if possible or use a general greeting],

During the recent federal government shutdown, food benefits provided by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), otherwise known as [insert name of program in your [respective state](#)], have been substantially disrupted.

Full payments may be on their way to recipients in the coming [days/weeks] following recent court rulings and legislative action, but the situation has impacted many students, faculty, and staff, as well as our local community.

Those of you who are not enrolled in SNAP may still be impacted as campus and community resources are increasingly stretched thin, especially community food banks and food pantries, on the eve of the holiday season.

We are monitoring the situation, and are committed to providing support to members of our campus community who have seen their benefits disrupted or have struggled to obtain food or other basic needs resources.

We recognize that this delay may have created significant and stressful challenges for many of you, your loved ones, and your peers, and are here to support you.

If you are in need of support—due to the SNAP delay or other challenges—please reach out to the resources listed below.

On-Campus

[Campus basic needs lead/department contact information

Campus basic needs website

Campus counseling contact information & website]

Off-Campus

[Contact information and/or websites of community partners

Contact information and/or websites for other community organizations

General resource links, including but not limited to:

<https://www.foodpantries.org/>

<https://www.mutualaidhub.org/>

<https://www.211.org/get-help/food-programs-food-benefits>]

If you are in a position to offer support, here's how you can help:

[Volunteer at the campus food pantry to help them extend hours and keep shelves stocked.

Buy a little extra next time you go grocery shopping and take it to the campus food pantry.

Show your support by listening, sharing resources, sharing meals. Emotional support is important, too—food insecurity is stressful!

Donate to (campus- or community-based emergency funds, food banks, etc.)]

If you or a loved one are currently receiving SNAP:

- October benefits are **safe and distributed**. If you have any money remaining on your EBT card, **you can still spend it**.
- When the delay is over, the original amount of SNAP **benefits should be issued retroactively**.
- During the delay, you **must still complete any reporting or recertification requirements** that are due.

Remember, you are not alone. We are here to help you find success in and out of the classroom, so please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

[Sign-off, ideally senior leadership]

Questions?

We're here to support you!

If you have any questions or comments about this guide, or would like to suggest additional content, please email the Hope Impact Partnerships team at hip-info@temple.edu or submit your ideas using [this form](#).

If you'd like to receive regular updates from The Hope Center, [sign up for our newsletter](#).

If you'd like to join a community of organizations advocating for college affordability and basic needs access at the state and federal levels, join the [National Coalition for College Student Essential Needs](#) (NCCSEN) listserv and monthly policy meetings.

If you are a college or university looking for a partner to help you understand your students' experiences and improve your campus basic needs ecosystem or evaluate your current supports, we would love to work with you. Please [reach out to us](#).

Thank you!

We appreciate the ideas and suggestions that have been offered for this guide and are thrilled to share them with the community.

We are also deeply grateful for the generosity of the funders and supporters who make our work possible.

If you are in a position to be able to help support our work and expand our mission, just like this guide, please consider [donating today](#).



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