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## GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN & SNAP BENEFITS

The federal government shutdown that began on October 1, 2025, is causing significant disruption to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps. November 2025 benefits for approximately 42 million Americans are at risk of delay or non-payment.

### Current Status:

- October 2025 SNAP benefits are being issued normally
- USDA has sent states [a letter](#) warning of funding shortfalls for Nov. SNAP benefits if the shutdown continues past Oct. 31.
- Most states anticipate disruptions of SNAP benefits, regardless of if the shutdown continues. Some states are already withholding benefits.
- SNAP recipients likely will receive backpay for any benefits disruptions.
- Currently, there is minimal impact on other government benefits, such as Medicaid and TANF. However, if the shutdown continues into Dec., disruptions are expected.

### What Can ESE Leaders Do?:

- Carefully monitor [state agency websites](#) and forums for official updates in your state. Share information with ESE workers and alumni in a way that doesn't cause more stress.
  - Encourage ESE workers and alumni to be on the lookout for communications from the agency.
- Check-in regularly with ESE workers on food insecurity and emergency financial planning. Ensure flexibility to ESE workers during emergent times.
  - The lack of food can be traumatic for ESE workers. Stay attuned to behavioral and mood changes as well as disciplinary issues.
- Connect ESE workers with [food banks](#), religious organizations, and other community resources.
- If possible, set up emergency food distribution on-site and/or incorporate snacks and meals into programming.
- If possible, utilize existing, or raise, emergency funds to support ESE workers' needs.

## SNAP EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING (SNAP E&T)

Impacts on SNAP E&T are less severe than on SNAP benefits. States with approved FY26 state plans may operate based on their approved spending. However, logistical and funding challenges may still lead some states to discontinue services. Continued subsidized employment during this time can offer participants a sense of stability and income.

**\*Concurrent Policy Change:** Separately from the shutdown, USDA is implementing new work requirements effective November 1, 2025.

### Recommendations for ESEs Providing SNAP E&T Services:

- Maintain communications with your state or county on SNAP E&T and 50/50 reimbursements.
- Identify any supportive services that may free up participants' budgets for food – E&T funds may not be used to for food, even in emergency circumstances.

- If your state’s E&T program shuts down, or funding otherwise becomes a challenge, consider the following to support maintaining services:
  - **Continue to track expenses tied to SNAP E&T** – Maintain clear records so reimbursements can be submitted and processed quickly once the system restarts.
  - **Delay non-essential spending** – Postpone discretionary purchases and new hires until reimbursement payments are restored. Many businesses suspend employee credit cards during liquidity control periods so that expenses are approved in advance.
  - **Communicate with vendors and lenders early** – If you anticipate cash flow strain, reach out to suppliers or lenders to negotiate temporary flexibility.
  - **Review and/or adjust payroll timelines** – If your employees rely on SNAP E&T funding for training or wage support, plan for potential gaps and communicate transparently.
  - **Request reserve use authorization from your board** – Draw from reserves only for essential operating expenses like payroll, rent, and inventory.

### **Email to vendor**

*Dear [Vendor Name],*

*I hope you’re doing well. I wanted to reach out regarding our current payment schedule. Due to the federal government shutdown, reimbursements through the SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) program—which supports a portion of our payroll and training costs—are temporarily delayed. We expect payments to resume once the shutdown concludes, but in the meantime, we’re managing cash flow carefully to sustain operations and continue supporting our employees. Would it be possible to temporarily extend our payment terms or defer our upcoming invoice dated [Invoice Date] until [Proposed Date or Timeframe]? We value our partnership and want to ensure we remain a reliable long-term customer.*

*Thank you for considering this request. I’d be happy to discuss a short-term arrangement that works for both sides.*

*Best regards,*

### **Email to lender**

*Dear [Lender Name],*

*I hope this message finds you well. I’m reaching out to request temporary payment relief due to the federal government shutdown, which has delayed our reimbursements from the SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) program. These funds directly support our operations and employee training expenses. To preserve liquidity and meet essential obligations during this interruption, we’re asking whether our loan payment due [Date] could be deferred or extended by [X days/weeks], with no penalty or late fee if possible. We expect normal payments to resume promptly once federal processing restarts. We value our relationship with [Lender/Institution Name] and appreciate your understanding as we navigate this temporary disruption.*

*Best regards,*