



Joe Lombardo
GOVERNOR

Federal Shutdown Fact Sheet: SNAP and WIC Benefits

The federal shutdown continues to impact access to federal benefits for Nevadans. A fact sheet updated on October 22 is provided below:

What is the status of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in Nevada?

- In Nevada, about 495,000 individuals currently receive the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) SNAP benefits, [alongside an estimated 42 million people across the nation](#). Approximately \$90 million a month in SNAP benefits are issued to Nevadans. SNAP benefits are 100% federally funded and DSS approves the benefits on behalf of the federal government.
- If the federal government shutdown extends beyond October 31, federal funding would be insufficient to cover SNAP benefits for November.
- Alongside the Office of the Governor, DSS continues to closely monitor the federal shutdown and the impacts to SNAP recipients. Once the government reopens, DSS will wait for federal guidance on how to process benefits impacted by the shutdown. Additional food resources can be found at [Nevada 211](#).

What is the status of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) in Nevada?

- Governor Lombardo has been dedicated to ensuring that the more than 55,000 participants of Nevada's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program continue to have access to food benefits during the federal government shutdown. To support that direction, the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, in partnership with the Nevada Office of Emergency Management, requested \$7.3 million in emergency funding to support WIC.
- The funding was approved by the Nevada Board of Examiners on October 14 and the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) on October 16. This funding will ensure continued food benefits for participants statewide including pregnant women, new mothers, and young children through December 23, 2025, regardless of federal funding. This request was a proactive step to prevent a disruption in services for families during the federal shutdown and underscores Nevada's commitment to public health.
- Funds will be distributed weekly and only used if the (USDA does not provide additional WIC food funding.



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The State is funding the WIC program with emergency state funds. Can the State fund the SNAP program similarly?

- Unfortunately, no. SNAP benefits are funded with federal dollars. Monthly benefits for Nevada SNAP recipients cost approximately \$90 million. The State does not have this amount of funding available in the Emergency Account, Disaster Relief Account, or the IFC Contingency Unrestricted General Fund.
- While the State could seek access to reverted General Fund dollars, unspent American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, or Rainy Day Funds through legislative authorization to temporarily fund emergency benefits, the emergency program would need to stay fully distinct from SNAP to remain compliant with federal regulations. The State could work with the SNAP vendor to implement an emergency program, but the vendor has indicated they would need approximately 3-6 months to implement a state funded program to ensure compliance (i.e. system configuration to ensure separation from the federal SNAP program).

How is the State seeking to assist SNAP beneficiaries during this time?

- The Office of the Governor, Governor's Finance Office, Nevada Department of Human Services, and the Nevada Department of Agriculture are working with local and state partners to secure supplemental resources for SNAP beneficiaries in the event the shutdown extends beyond October 31.
- Once additional resources are in place, the State will contact SNAP and WIC beneficiaries with information and will also advise the public of the additional resources available to all Nevadans in need.