

Impact of Federal Government Shutdown on SNAP in Washington State

Food assistance benefits in Washington will end on October 31, 2025 if the federal government shutdown continues. The loss of food assistance will have devastating impacts on the well-being of Washingtonians and negative economic effects in communities across the state.

LOSS OF FOOD ASSISTANCE*

Nearly 1 million Washingtonians will lose resources to buy groceries and put food on the table.^{1, 2, 3}

930,000

Washingtonians at risk of losing food assistance starting November 1



1 in 3

Washingtonians at risk of losing assistance are elderly or disabled



33%

of Washingtonians at risk of losing food assistance are children



30,000

Washington veterans are at risk of losing assistance



STRAIN ON EMERGENCY FOOD SYSTEM

The loss of SNAP will put additional burden on an already strained food system.

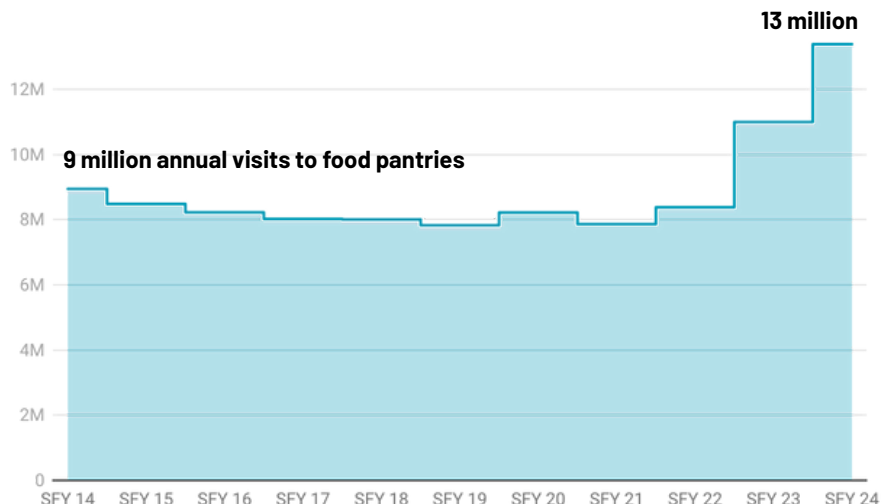
Inflation has made groceries increasingly unaffordable and worsened food insecurity. If SNAP benefits end, already strained food banks and local emergency food programs will have to do more with less because of funding cuts under federal legislation known as H.R. 1.

13 million

visits to food pantries in Washington in 2024, a record high⁴

1 in 4

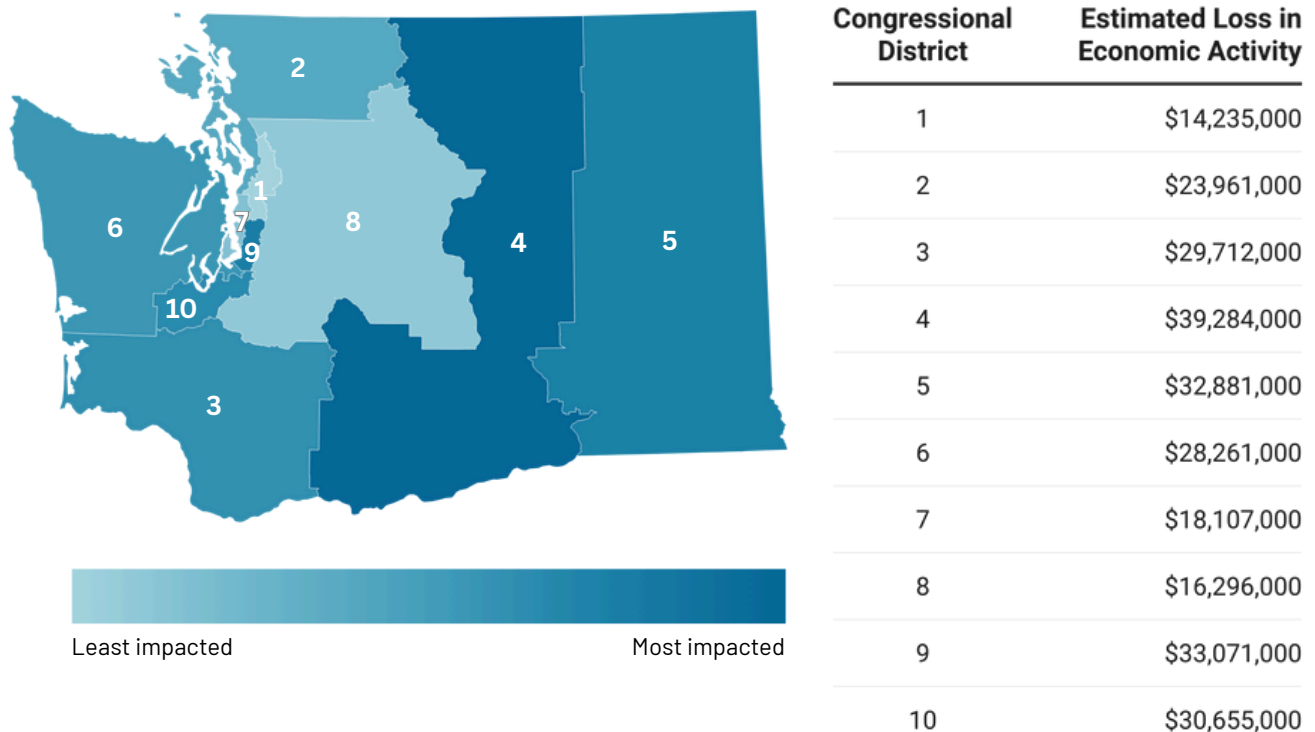
Washington residents visited a food pantry in the last year⁵



NEGATIVE IMPACT ON WASHINGTON ECONOMY

Communities throughout the state are likely to lose more than \$265 million per month in economic activity, with the deepest impacts in rural Washington.⁶

Every \$1 spent with SNAP generates \$1.54 in local economic activity.⁷



OTHER IMPACTS

The longer the shutdown continues, the greater the ripple effects for Washingtonians, our communities, and the economy.

- Food insecurity and hunger will continue to rise until the shutdown ends, causing additional stress on families and communities.
- Fewer employees during the shutdown may result in longer wait times for other public assistance programs and potentially compromise program integrity.
- Beginning November 4, DSHS Tribal outstations and mobile community service offices might not be staffed until the federal government reopens.

Notes/ Citations

*includes SNAP and FAP

(1) Economic Services Administration, Department of Social and Health Services (October 2025), DSHS-ESA/EMAPS Assignment #6377 using the ACES Data Warehouse as of the October 2025 load; (2) Economic Services Administration, Department of Social and Health Services, Basic Food Caseload Summary, ESA Management Analytics and Performance Statistics (EMAPS) as of October 2025 Load; (3) Economic Services Administration, Department of Social and Health Services (February 2023), ESA Management Analytics and Performance Statistics (EMAPS) EMAPS #5774; (4) Washington State Department of Agriculture (November 2024), Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) Yearly Data for Food Pantries State Fiscal Years 2014-2024; (5) Washington State Department of Agriculture (November 2024), Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) Yearly Data for Food Pantries State Fiscal Years 2014-2024; (6) Economic Services Administration, Department of Social and Health Services (October 2025) DSHS-ESA/EMAPS Assignment #6533 using the ACES Data Warehouse as of the October 2025 load. (7) Canning, Patrick and Brian Stacy. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Economy: New Estimates of the SNAP Multiplier, ERR-265, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, July 2019 at https://ers.usda.gov/sites/default/files/_laserfiche/publications/93529/ERR265_Summary.pdf?v=51084