

Oct. 30, 2025

DSHS Partner Toolkit – Impact of Federal Government Shutdown on SNAP* in Washington State

Dear partners in social services –

Thank you for your interest in helping to share the impacts of the continued federal government shutdown on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program food benefits, the people who receive those benefits and all of us in Washington state.

This short communication toolkit contains materials for use by agencies, community partners and other organizations who want to help inform our shared customers and the public about what people can expect and how they can prepare if the federal shutdown continues past Oct. 31, 2025. Please use what works for your purposes and audiences.

If you have questions, please [contact](#) us. We will provide links to materials in other languages as we have them translated.

With gratitude,
Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

** The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is being defunded if the government shutdown continues to November 2025. Washington state runs an identical state-funded Food Assistance Program that supports legal immigrants who are not eligible for SNAP. FAP will also not issue benefits in November. Together, the programs are known as Basic Food in Washington. The numbers included in these messages refer to the Basic Food caseload and costs.*



Web banner language

[for use on your organization's website]

If the federal government shutdown continues, food assistance benefits in Washington will end on Oct. 31, 2025. Losing food assistance will have devastating impacts on the well-being of hundreds of thousands of Washington residents and will hurt local economies across the state. [DSHS has more information](#) about the impacts as well as what clients can do to prepare for the loss of benefits.

Infographic

Developed by the Washington Economic Justice Alliance team, this infographic provides a visual representation of the impacts of the shutdown on SNAP recipients and everyone in Washington state.

[SNAP Infographic](#)

Social media messages

[for use on your organization's social media accounts]

[also feel free to like/share/cross-promote DSHS content on your social accounts]

[DSHS is on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Nextdoor](#), [Twitter/X](#), [BlueSky](#) and [LinkedIn](#)]

Alliance/DSHS social graphics/copy

[Federal shutdown social graphics](#)

[zip file with five carousel images, sized for use across platforms, opens in downloads]

If the federal government shutdown continues, food assistance benefits in Washington will end on Oct. 31, 2025. Losing food assistance will have devastating impacts on the well-being of hundreds of thousands of Washington residents and will hurt local economies across the state. DSHS has more information about the impacts as well as what clients can do to prepare for the loss of benefits. [Link: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/alert/partial-federal-government-shutdown>]

211

Are you or your family impacted by the continued federal government shutdown? We understand this is a stressful time for many Washingtonians. You can find local food banks and other resources through Washington 211. Call 211 or visit wa211.org to learn more.

Other resources

Are you or your family impacted by the continued federal government shutdown? With the costs for groceries and daily living expenses continue to be high, this is a stressful time for many people and families. We encourage people to connect with local resources as much as possible. This DSHS reduced-cost services guide might be helpful to you or someone you know. [Link: [Reduced-cost services guide](#)]

FAQ

[use to develop your own content or answer questions you get]

[Federal shutdown FAQ](#)

Key Messages

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients in Washington state

- Nearly 1 million Washingtonians will lose resources to buy groceries and put food on the table, according to DSHS data.
- Nearly 930,000 Washingtonians in more than 540,000 households currently receive food assistance in Washington state.
 - This represents more than 11% of the population.
 - Children make up roughly 33% of food assistance recipients.
 - One in three people at risk of losing food assistance are elderly or disabled.
 - Roughly 30,000 veterans in Washington state are at risk of losing food assistance.

[Breakdown by county/congressional/legislative district available upon request.]

Washington state impacts

- [According to the USDA](#), every \$1 spent in SNAP benefits generates \$1.54 in economic activity. In September 2025, Washington state issued more than \$173 million in SNAP benefits, according to DSHS data.
- If the federal government shutdown continues past Oct. 31, communities throughout the state will lose more than \$265 million in economic activity in November, with the deepest impacts in rural Washington.

- This has downstream effects on grocery store workers, local farmers who supply stores and markets, and more.
- 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](#).

[Breakdown by county/congressional/legislative district available upon request.]