



## **Federal Government Shutdown: Frequently Asked Questions for SNAP Customers**

*This information will be updated as the District receives additional information.*

**1. Does the partial federal government shutdown affect my SNAP (Food Stamps) benefits?**

Yes – due to the partial federal government shutdown, DHS will provide February SNAP benefits to all regular and ongoing customers in January.

**2. When will I receive my February SNAP benefits?**

DHS will start providing February SNAP benefits to all regular customers on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

**3. I am a federal employee who has been furloughed. Am I eligible for SNAP?**

Your household must meet certain financial and non-financial requirements to be eligible for SNAP and receive benefits. If you are eligible to receive SNAP benefits, you will receive benefits starting from the date of application. See more information at <https://dhs.dc.gov/page/guidance-furloughed-district-residents-seeking-public-benefits>.

**4. What happens if applied for SNAP benefits after January 16<sup>th</sup>? Will I receive benefits?**

Yes, benefits will be available on your EBT cards for the month of February during the month of January. Benefits will be loaded 48 – 72 hours after receipt of all of your information.

**5. Will I receive another benefit during the month of February?**

No, customers who receive the early issuance during January for the month of February will **NOT** receive another SNAP benefit during month of February.

**6. Does the partial federal government shutdown affect my cash benefits (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) benefits?**

No. There will be no changes to cash program benefits, including TANF, IDA, GC and RCA. Cash payments will be made during the normal schedule.

**7. When can I start using the February benefits deposited on my EBT card in January?**

You may begin to use them immediately whenever you receive your benefits; however, remember that you will not receive any additional SNAP benefits in February so you must budget accordingly.

**8. If I received my February benefits in January, and the partial federal government shutdown ends, will I receive more benefits in February on my normal date?**

No. The benefits you that you receive early in January are what you are eligible for the entire month of February. We recommend you budget your SNAP benefits to last you through the end of February.

**9. What if my February benefits are not available in my EBT account yet?**

Submit all outstanding verification documents to us and we will process your case. You can mail in your mid-certifications and interim contacts immediately but for re-certifications, you will be required to do a phone or in person interview. After this is completed and we determine that you are eligible for SNAP benefits, you will receive your February benefits during the month of January.

**10. Do I have to continue to meet all SNAP requirements during the shutdown?**

Yes. You are still required to recertify, complete periodic reports, report changes and respond to requests from DHS as usual.

**11. Can I still apply during the shutdown if I currently do not receive SNAP benefits?**

Yes. You may still apply at any ESA Service Center. You can find a location at <https://dhs.dc.gov/service/find-service-center-near-you>.

**12. How can I get more information about SNAP benefits?**

Please visit the DHS website at <https://dhs.dc.gov/service/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-snap>.

**\*\*If you have any questions or need additional assistance, you may call the DHS Call Center 7:30am - 4:45pm, Monday – Friday at (202) 727-5355\*\***