

February 14, 2019

#### SNAP Recipients to Receive March Benefits in Two Issuances

Because of the partial federal government shutdown that concluded January 25, [Ohio SNAP households](#) will receive 50 percent of March benefit February 22 and the remainder on their assigned March issuance date. The USDA previously instructed states to make February SNAP benefits available to recipients by January 20, since it was unknown during the shutdown whether funds would be available in February. In Ohio, February SNAP benefits were issued January 16. Because of the early February issuance, Ohio **plans to provide half of families' March benefit amounts this month and the rest in March. Ohio expects to return to the standard cycle of benefits issuance in April, barring another shutdown.**

#### Federal Government Shutdown

The U.S. House and Senate are expected to vote on and pass legislation either today or tomorrow to fund the federal government and avert another shutdown. It will then go to the President for anticipated signature and enactment. Feeding America and our other national partners are asking supporters to re-inforce with our federal lawmakers the need to pass this legislation. Below is sample language that can be sent to our Congressional Representatives ([click here](#) to find your Representative) and Senators [click here](#) for Ohio Senator contact information):

I urge you to support legislation to fund the federal government through the remainder of the current fiscal year. During the 35 days that 800,000 federal employees and more than a million contracted federal workers were forced to go without pay, food banks across the country saw an increase in demand for food as many of these public servants struggled to make ends meet. With a lag in issuance of SNAP benefits as a result of the shutdown, food banks are preparing for an increase in need for food assistance. I urge you not to compound the challenges we face in responding to the recent shutdown by allowing government funding to lapse once again, and ask that you support the spending legislation being brought to the floor. At this point, Congress has agreed to legislation to keep the federal government operational. The bill is working through the House and Senate and is expected to go to the President for signature and enactment Friday. Should the bill not be enacted and the government again suffers a partial shutdown, we will share any information we have on the impact to anti-hunger services.

#### Act Now to Comment on Punitive ABAWD Rule Proposal

Just months after Congress and the Trump Administration renewed SNAP through the farm bill, the Administration now proposes to implement through executive action what it failed to get through legislation: taking away food assistance from struggling workers and families through harsh changes to SNAP! Help generate public comments making clear that this proposed federal regulation would vastly increase food insecurity. The deadline to submit comments is April 2!

Federal law already limits SNAP eligibility to just three months out of every three years for unemployed and underemployed adults without dependent children unless they can document 20 hours of work a week. States can request waivers to exempt people from the time limit, such as those in areas with high unemployment or those who lack a high school diploma or face other high barriers to employment. Now, USDA proposes **making the existing time limit harsher. USDA's proposal would undercut states' ability to waive time limits in many areas where there are too few jobs. By USDA's own estimates,** this would eliminate SNAP benefits for 755,000 adults and cut SNAP benefits by \$15 billion over 10 years.

Find [templates](#) here and submit comments through [Feeding America's dedicated portal](#) to this issue. For additional information and talking points, also go to the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#) page or the [Food Research & Action Center](#) page. Comments can be submitted individually or on behalf of organizations, so utilize all avenues in response to this proposal. Or, you can mail comments to:



Certification Policy Branch, Program Development Division, FNS, 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302. Ask employees, supporters and volunteers to also weigh in through these websites. Every comment counts; check out this great article on [grassroots advocacy](#) and this rule proposal!

#### Advocacy Contacts

For questions or information, contact your advocacy team: Tim White, Advocacy Manager: (614) 317-9480 or [twhite@midohiofoodbank.org](mailto:twhite@midohiofoodbank.org); or, Marilyn Tomasi, Vice President, Marketing, Communications and Public Affairs (614) 317-9446 or [mtomasi@midohiofoodbank.org](mailto:mtomasi@midohiofoodbank.org). Access [advocacy resources and FAN e-blasts](#) here; or, for federal advocacy information, visit the [Feeding America](#) and the [Food Research and Action Center](#) (FRAC) advocacy sites.