

# Information Memorandum Transmittal Office of Self-Sufficiency Programs



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Administrator

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**Number:** SS-IM-19-002

**Issue date:** 1/15/19

**Topic:** Food Benefits

**Due date:** 1/14/19

**Subject:** SNAP and the early release of February benefits due to the federal government shutdown.

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees                                | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging: Types A and B | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services                                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities    | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self Sufficiency Programs             | <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Intensive In Home Services           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD program managers                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU)                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children's Residential Services             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other ( <i>please specify</i> ):                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare Programs                           |   |

**Information about Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the early release of February benefits due to the federal government shutdown.**

The partial federal government shutdown is affecting the funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

**Why is the early release of SNAP benefits happening?**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Nutrition Services (FNS) is instructing states to make February's SNAP benefits available before January 20. This is to ensure that there is adequate funding for February issuances.

**When is the early February release happening?**

- February's SNAP benefits will be available to ongoing participants on Friday, January 18, 2019.
- SNAP recipients will want to budget the early benefit issuance for the month of February.
- Ongoing SNAP participants will be receiving a direct mail communication regarding this change.

**Who will this affect?**

- This request will affect anyone who is currently receiving SNAP benefits. This potentially includes any new applications and recertifications processed by January 15, 2019.

**How will this affect SNAP benefits in January and February?**

- Oregon usually sends SNAP benefits to participants over the first nine days of the month. This will not occur for the month of February 2019.
- There will be no staggered issuance of food benefits in February 2019, because February benefits are being released January 18, 2019.
- SNAP benefits on Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards can continue to be used after the end of January 2019.
- When SNAP participants call to request the balance on their EBT card they will hear a message from the EBT vendor letting them know about the changes in the February benefit issuances.
- More guidance about how to process new applications, recert applications and interim change reports during the shutdown will be coming out shortly in a transmittal. This transmittal will be specific to the issuance of SNAP benefits during this time.
- 211Info is a resource for SNAP recipients that can share other local food resources that may be available.

**What about other DHS programs?**

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) programs have funding through to the end of March.
- Oregon Health Plan (OHP) programs remain unaffected at this time.

**What about Community Partners?**

- DHS is reaching out through multiple channels to keep our community partners connected to what is happening with SNAP through the federal government shutdown.

**If you would like to include information on your voice recorded message, you can use the following:**

“DHS is issuing food benefits for February 2019 early. Instead of receiving benefits during the normal issuance dates based on the last number of your social security number these benefits will be received on January 18, 2019. You won’t receive additional benefits for February 2019. If you need additional resources for food contact 211 for local resources.”

This information can be shared with people receiving SNAP benefits and community partners.

*If you have any questions about this information, contact:*

Contact(s): SNAP Policy	
Phone:	Fax:
Email: <a href="mailto:SNAP.Policy@dhsosha.state.or.us">SNAP.Policy@dhsosha.state.or.us</a>	