

DATE: January 11, 2019

TO: Subscribers

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION: Commissioners, TA Directors, SNAP Directors, MA Directors, Staff Development Coordinators, Financial Directors, Adult Services Directors, Employment Coordinators

FROM: Jeffrey Gaskell, Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Employment and Income Support Programs

SUBJECT: Partial Federal Government Shutdown and Supplement Nutrition Assistance Programs (SNAP) Benefits for February 2019 (upstate)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: SNAP at: (518) 473-1469

Since we issued GIS TA-DC003 yesterday, we have received revised information and additional clarification from both USDA and our EBT vendor.

To allow adequate time for the Treasury to obligate funds for the February recurring SNAP benefits by January 20th, **the recurring benefit files must be delivered to our EBT vendor the evening of January 16th.**

This means that, to be included in the early recurring benefit file delivery, **SNAP recertifications for February 1st now must be completed by the new, revised production control schedule dates for your group provided below.**

- Group A on Monday, January 14, 2019
- Group B on Tuesday, January 15, 2019
- Group C on Wednesday, January 16, 2019

Again, priority in completing recertifications should be given to those cases that have completely re-established continuing eligibility for February, and, except for trying to accommodate this request for an early completion of February 1st recertifications, the normal acceptance and processing of applications, recertifications and changes for TA, TA-SNAP and SNAP-only cases is not affected and should proceed as usual.

Additionally, USDA has provided some information on the funding of February benefits for those households whose recertifications are not completed prior to the early issuance or for those who subsequently apply. According to USDA, cases that recertify or apply for benefits after January 16th will receive funding through the limited SNAP contingency reserve. Therefore, it is critical that states issue as many regular recurring benefits before January 16th.

While we do not know how long the USDA SNAP reserve funds will be available into February through this process, recertifications, new applications and undercare changes affecting February benefits should be processed as usual. We will provide more information about funding for February benefits as it becomes available.