

DATE: January 14, 2019

TO: Subscribers

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION: Commissioners, TA Directors, SNAP Directors,
Employment Coordinators, WMS Coordinators, MA
Directors

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

SUBJECT: Partial Federal Government Shutdown and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
Program (SNAP) Benefits for February 2019 Early Issuance Public Notice
Poster

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: SNAP Questions – SNAP Bureau (518) 473-1469

Because it is not feasible to provide individual notice to all affected households, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) has developed the attached Public Notice Poster to inform SNAP households that recurring SNAP benefits for February will be made available to most SNAP households on January 17, 2019, instead of the regularly scheduled benefit availability date. Until further notice, all social services districts (districts) must display the Public Notice Poster providing information about the early issuance of February SNAP benefits due to the partial federal government shutdown.

The Public Notice Poster must be displayed in both English and Spanish in reception and lobby areas where applications for SNAP benefits are accepted. The Spanish Public Notice Poster will be made available as soon as translation has been completed and districts will be notified when it is available. In the meantime, districts must post the English version upon release of this GIS. Districts with more than one office conducting such business must post the Public Notices in all such offices. The Public Notice Poster must be displayed within these areas in a manner reasonably expected to be seen by individuals and should be placed near the Poster Pub 4842, "If you need an Interpreter".

In addition, OTDA has posted Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) at:
<http://otda.ny.gov/share/Shutdown-SNAP-Questions-Answers.pdf>

Important Information for SNAP Recipients about your February Benefits

Because of the federal shutdown, most SNAP recipients will receive their February Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits early.

If you received a SNAP benefit in January and were scheduled to receive SNAP in February, your February benefits **may** be available on your EBT card on January 17th instead of on your scheduled February availability date.

This is your entire February benefit. This is not an extra SNAP benefit for January. **You will not get any more benefits in February.** So, it is important that you budget and spend your February benefit with that in mind.

If you completed your recertification for SNAP benefits in January and do not receive your February benefit on January 17th, this does **not** mean that you will not get a February benefit. Your February benefit should be available on February 1.

Currently, nothing else about SNAP has changed due to the federal government shutdown. All program requirements remain in place. If you get a recertification notice and application, or a periodic report form, please complete it and return it to your Department of Social Services (DSS) promptly so you may continue to receive SNAP benefits in the future. Your requirement to report changes to your DSS has also not changed.

We will continue to provide up-to-date information about how the federal shutdown may impact your SNAP benefits on the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance website at www.otda.ny.gov. The website also includes some frequently asked questions and answers about the shutdown.