

Dear Community Partners,

We are writing to draw your attention to the halt in distribution of November, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food assistance benefits due to the federal government shutdown. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has not released the funds that the State of Colorado relies on to issue SNAP food assistance benefits for November. The lack of access to SNAP benefits has significant impacts on our community and our most vulnerable residents. SNAP benefits are paid monthly and are an essential resource for low-income households to purchase food. With a funding disruption of almost \$7.6 million locally, benefits are on hold for nearly 22,000 Jefferson County households and over 38,000 individuals, nearly 34% of which are children.

This means local families who budget carefully to stretch monthly benefits now face a gap in their ability to purchase groceries and meet basic food needs. With the November holidays approaching, the disruption will lead to increased food insecurity, added stress on emergency food banks in the region, and additional strain on partner agencies and nonprofits that serve food-insecure populations.

In Jefferson County, we have reached out to our state and federal elected officials, urging prompt restoration of funding for SNAP benefits and highlighting the urgent consequences of a prolonged delay. Our staff in the Department of Human Services continue to process new SNAP applications and recertifications and are working to ensure all eligible clients are ready to receive benefits once funding is restored. We are communicating with SNAP recipients in Jefferson County via county communication channels, guiding them to resources, and encouraging them to check their online benefit status via the state's [PEAK system](#).

Food Resources to Share

For additional food resources we encourage you to reach out to local food banks or community agencies in your area.

- Colorado 211: Dial 2-1-1 or (866) 760-6489 or visit <https://www.211colorado.org>.
- Feeding Colorado Resources at [Find Food - Feeding Colorado](#) or info@feedingcolorado.org
- Jefferson County Human Services [Find Resources page](#) includes local food banks and many other resources.
- Quick Reference Resource List available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

We ask that you share these resources with your networks including employees, clients, community members, service providers, and partner organizations so that the community is as prepared and supported as possible.

Ways to Contribute

There are several meaningful ways community members and organizations can contribute to mitigate the impact of this disruption:

- **Donate to local food banks/pantries:** With delayed SNAP benefits, local food pantries will see increased demand. See a [Zip Code Heat Map](#) showing the areas most impacted. Those able to help are encouraged to donate to their local food banks. While canned goods are welcome, financial donations go further — every dollar helps food banks purchase and distribute more meals statewide. Donations can also be made at FeedingColorado.org/donate.
- **Volunteer time at food distribution sites:** Extra hands will be needed in November and December to support increased volume.
- **Organize food drives:** Businesses, faith-based groups, schools and community groups can host drives to collect shelf-stable items and fresh produce (when feasible).
- **Share information:** Help spread the word about the SNAP impacts, how families can check their benefit status, and where to turn for emergency food support.

The delay in distributing November SNAP benefits is more than a technical funding issue, it is a pressing challenge that threatens food security for individuals, families, and children in Jefferson County. As community leaders, we must act swiftly, collectively, and compassionately to support affected households and advocate for the restoration of this vital federal support.

We appreciate the ongoing partnership of your organization and your willingness to elevate awareness, share resources, and mobilize support during this period of uncertainty. Thank you for your leadership and for standing with our most vulnerable neighbors at this critical time.

Sincerely,

The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners



JEFFERSON  **COUNTY COLORADO** | **Board of County Commissioners**