

Routt County Responds to SNAP Benefit Disruption

Routt County, CO, October 28, 2025 – Due to the ongoing federal government shutdown, more than 600 individuals in 423 Routt County households will not receive their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits beginning November 1, 2025. Routt County typically distributes approximately \$116,000 in monthly SNAP benefits, electronically loaded to EBT cards between the 1st and 10th of each month. With the federal system currently inoperable, the County is taking action to support affected residents.

“I am really honored to work for a County that sees value and is considering this plan,” said Kelly Kissling Routt County Department of Human Services Director. “This is a critical moment for many families in our community, we want to ensure that our SNAP qualified residents continue have access to food during this disruption.”

After assessing available options—including prepaid debit cards, food bank capacity, and regional coordination—Routt County has developed a temporary, equitable solution to ensure food access for SNAP recipients. On October 28, 2005 Routt County Commissioners voted unanimously to approve up to \$60,000 from County reserves to fund grocery gift cards for SNAP households.

Response Plan

- **Funding Authorization:** The Board of County Commissioners approved up to \$60,000 from County reserves to fund temporary grocery gift cards, covering approximately two weeks of benefits.
- **Benefit Amounts:** Gift card amounts are based on each household's typical SNAP benefit, prorated for two weeks and rounded to the nearest \$25.
- **Card Distribution:** Cards will be distributed through Routt County Department of Human Services (DHS) as soon as November 5, 2025, at 135 6th Street, Steamboat Springs. *Eligible households can contact the Tech of the Day at 970-870-5280.*
- **Eligibility & Verification:** Card distribution begins November 5, 2025, and must be completed in person by a verified SNAP household member. Households must sign an attestation agreeing to use the cards only for SNAP-eligible groceries. Cards will be issued upon ID verification, and inventory will be tracked daily to prevent duplication. *Households with mobility or other barriers should reach out to DHS to arrange alternative solutions. Contact the Tech of the Day at 970-870-5280.*

Should the shutdown continue beyond mid-November, the County will assess need and supply of additional grocery cards for the remaining half of the month. SNAP benefits

are expected to be released once the shutdown concludes, and the County continues monitoring changes daily.

Ways to Help

If you are interested in supporting our community's food security during this time, please remember that this is an important giving season for all nonprofits, and that additional support on top of regular giving is critical to maintain as well as enhance support for individuals and families as needs increase.

LiftUp of Routt County is the nexus of food security in Routt County, serving 1 out of 7 of our Routt County neighbors. Contributions of shelf-stable foods and USDA-processed proteins are always welcome, though financial contributions help support the purchase of higher quantities of very low-cost foods through the Food Bank's existing purchasing partners. Learn more about donating food or funds online at liftuprc.org.

"Many individuals and groups have reached out asking how to help. The best way to support your neighbors right now is to donate funds to LiftUp," said Melina Bricker, Assistant County Manager for Routt County. "This organization serves 1 in 7 Routt County residents, with as few barriers as possible for people to access nutrition. The food bank's ability to purchase lower-cost foods also maximizes your dollars and impact for our community."

To find additional resources in Routt County, please contact:

- Colorado 211: Dial 2-1-1 or (866)760-6489 or visit <https://www.211colorado.org>
- Feeding Colorado Resources at <https://feedingcolorado.org/find-food/> or info@feedingcolorado.org

Contact: info@co.routt.co.us

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