



DATE: February 27, 2026

SUBJECT: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Quality Control (QC)
Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Review Procedures for November 2025 Active
Sample
QC Policy Memo 26-02

TO: Regional Directors
SNAP Division
All Regions

SNAP State Agency Directors
All State Agencies

This memorandum provides guidance for State agencies on processing November 2025 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) quality control (QC) case reviews, since benefit issuances were impacted by the October 1 to November 12, 2025, lapse in Federal appropriations. FNS acknowledges State agencies faced challenges in accurately issuing the November 2025 allotments to households because of rapidly changing circumstances. Therefore, FNS is allowing a QC variance exclusion for cases found in error due to using the incorrect maximum allotment for November 2025.

Variance Exclusion for November 2025 Active QC Cases

The variance exclusion provided in this memorandum is only applicable to active November 2025 QC cases in which the allotment issued as of review date (AORD) was

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determined using a reduced maximum allotment of 50% or 65%, based on an FNS-issued memorandum about November issuance released prior to the signing of the FY26 Appropriations Act.¹ Therefore, QC cases in which the full November allotment was issued by November 30, 2025, are not eligible for this variance exclusion.

Once a QC case is identified to fit the requirements of this variance exclusion, the QC reviewer must provide thorough documentation of the circumstances in the QC review record and the final determination on the FNS 380 in Section 520 Arithmetic Computation. This documentation includes which maximum allotment was used, and which FNS issued memorandum was followed by the State agency AORD.

Timeliness Coding

For determining application processing timeliness (APT) rates, FNS will manually exclude November 2025 timeliness determinations as State agencies may have experienced challenges with application processing and recertification timeliness. States must continue to code cases for timeliness for administrative purposes. For cases not impacted by the lapse in Federal funding, States should follow existing coding instructions for item 68- Timeliness of Application Processing and 70- Timeliness of Recertification Processing using the current FY 2026 instructions for these codes. For cases that were affected by the lapse, please use the codes listed below for items 68 and 70 -

- Item 68: Initial households who were not provided with the opportunity to participate by the 7th or 30th day.

¹ Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-37).

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- Code 2 - Not timely: 7-day time frame for expedites, or
- Code 3 - Not timely: 30-day time frame for regular applications.
- Item 70: For a recertifying household who was not provided the opportunity to participate by their normal issuance date.
 - Code 13 - Agency failed to act on completed recertification application.
This would include any completed recertification application that was filed timely, but an eligibility worker failed to act for whatever reason.

FNS would like to remind State agencies that it is important to continue to sample and review November 2025 under normal QC review procedures for all other SNAP elements of eligibility and benefit issuance. We appreciate your continued partnership appreciate your continued partnership to serve program participants across the country. State agencies with questions should contact their FNS Regional Office.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Proska
Acting Director
Program Administration and Nutrition Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Food and Nutrition Service

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