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Federal Shutdown Fact Sheet: SNAP and WIC Benefits

The federal shutdown continues to impact access to federal benefits for Nevadans. A fact sheet updated on October 27 is provided below:

What is the status of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) in Nevada?

- Governor Lombardo has been dedicated to ensuring that the more than 55,000 participants of Nevada's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program continue to have access to food benefits during the federal government shutdown. To support that direction, the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, in partnership with the Nevada Office of Emergency Management, requested $7.3 million in emergency funding to support WIC.

- The funding was approved by the Nevada Board of Examiners on October 14 and the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) on October 16. This funding will ensure continued food benefits for participants statewide including pregnant women, new mothers, and young children through December 23, 2025, regardless of federal funding. This request was a proactive step to prevent a disruption in services for families during the federal shutdown and underscores Nevada's commitment to public health. Funds will be distributed weekly and only used if the USDA does not provide additional WIC food funding.

What is the status of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in Nevada?

- In Nevada, about 495,000 individuals currently receive the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) SNAP benefits. Approximately $90 million a month in SNAP benefits are issued to Nevadans. SNAP benefits are 100% federally funded and DSS approves the benefits on behalf of the federal government.

    - SNAP is not an emergency food program. SNAP provides supplemental benefits to qualified households.

    - In Nevada, 70% of SNAP households report some type of income with 28% of SNAP households reporting earned income.

    - In Nevada, 28% report earned income from employment, while the other 42% have unearned income. Unearned income is income such as Unemployment, Social Security, or TANF cash assistance.

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- In October 2025, 15.58% of Nevada SNAP households received a $100 benefit per month or less with 8.4% of Nevada SNAP households receiving a $25 benefit per month or less.

- If the federal government shutdown extends beyond October 31, federal funding would be insufficient to cover SNAP benefits for November.

- Alongside the Office of the Governor, DSS continues to closely monitor the federal shutdown and the impacts to SNAP recipients. Once the government reopens, DSS will wait for federal guidance on how to process benefits impacted by the shutdown. Additional food resources can be found at Nevada 211.

The State is funding the WIC program with emergency state funds. Can the State fund the SNAP program similarly?

- Unfortunately, no. SNAP benefits are funded with federal dollars. Monthly benefits for Nevada SNAP recipients cost approximately $90 million. The State does not have this amount of funding available in the Emergency Account, Disaster Relief Account, or the IFC Contingency Unrestricted General Fund.

- While the State could seek access to reverted General Fund dollars, unspent American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, or Rainy Day Funds through legislative authorization to temporarily fund emergency benefits, current federal regulations prohibit states from funding the SNAP program directly.

- Accordingly, per the regulations outlined by the USDA, even if Governor Lombardo called a special convening of the Legislature and the Legislature opted to appropriate temporary SNAP funding, the State would not be able to directly fund the program.

How is the State seeking to assist SNAP beneficiaries during this time?

- Despite the State's inability to legally fund SNAP with state dollars, Governor Lombardo has directed the Governor's Finance Office, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Agriculture to implement the Food Insecurity Nevada Plan, which will secure supplemental resources for SNAP beneficiaries in the event the shutdown extends beyond October 31.

- To assist with the Food Insecurity Nevada Plan, Governor Lombardo will also engage the Nevada National Guard, who will be ready to assist with food distribution to those in need.

- These food resources will be available to any Nevadans in need of assistance as a result of the federal shutdown, not just SNAP beneficiaries.



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How is the State going to fund this supplemental assistance for SNAP beneficiaries and those in need?

- The State will fund the Food Insecurity Nevada Plan with $38.8M of state dollars through $30.2M of the IFC Contingency Fund and through emergency work programs totaling $8.6M.

- On Friday, October 24, the Governor's Office submitted an emergency work program totaling $5.9M. On Monday, October 27, the Governor's Office submitted additional emergency work programs totaling $1.9M. Additionally, the Nevada Department of Agriculture restructured its budget to provide $800k for the Food Insecurity Nevada Plan.

- At the direction of Governor Lombardo, the Governor's Finance Office has requested a $30M allocation to fund the Food Insecurity Nevada Plan from the Interim Finance Committee.

- At the direction of Governor Lombardo, the Office of the Military has requested $200k from the Interim Finance Committee for the deployment of the Nevada National Guard to assist with the food distribution of the Food Insecurity Nevada Plan.

- The Interim Finance Committee will convene on Thursday, October 30 to consider the request.