



## Mobile Food Assistance in Arizona as SNAP Benefits Expire and Federal Shutdown Continues



*USDA Jamie L. Whitten Building in Washington, D.C., as the federal government enters its 29th day of shutdown on Wednesday, October 29, 2025. The Navajo Nation Washington Office continues coordination efforts to address the expiration of SNAP benefits and support food relief across the Nation.  
Photo courtesy of the Navajo Nation Washington Office.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As the federal government shutdown enters its fourth week, the Navajo Nation was notified that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will expire on Friday, October 31, 2025, with no clear plan for reinstatement or reimbursement of missed payments. The Navajo Nation Washington Office, together with other tribal leaders, were briefed this week by the Native Farm Bill Coalition (NFBC), the Intertribal Agriculture Council, and partner organizations. NNWO is now coordinating efforts to identify relief options and help mitigate anticipated food shortages across the Nation.

The NFBC confirmed that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is expected to not use its \$5 billion contingency fund to continue providing SNAP benefits. This follows the failure of Senator Josh Hawley's (R-MO) bill to extend temporary funding for the program. Without congressional action, SNAP funding will lapse indefinitely. While both Democrats and Republicans have voiced concerns about the situation, they have called for differing

solutions. House Republicans have supported maintaining SNAP through Senator Hawley's bill, while 214 Democrats have co-signed a letter asking USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins and the Trump administration to activate the \$5 billion in contingency funding immediately.

To help meet the growing need, St. Mary's Food Bank will conduct drive-through food distributions across the Navajo and Hopi Nations throughout November. Each event will operate from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., with vehicle lineups beginning at 7:00 a.m., unless otherwise noted:

- Thursday, November 6: Hopi High School, 9–11 a.m.
- Tuesday, November 11: Keyta Rodeo Grounds, 9–11 a.m.
- Thursday, November 13: Western Navajo Fairgrounds, Tuba City, 9–11 a.m.
- Tuesday, November 18: Window Rock Fighting Scouts Event Center, 9–11 a.m.
- Thursday, November 20: Chinle High School, 9–11 a.m.
- Tuesday, November 25: St. Mary's Food Bank, Chinle, 12–2 p.m. (vehicle lineup starts at 11 a.m.)

St. Mary's food bank advised that overnight parking will not be allowed. Volunteers may register by calling 602-859-3030. Traffic plans and a full list of holiday distribution locations are available at [AZFoodHelp.org](http://AZFoodHelp.org).

NNWO also notes that individuals cannot be enrolled in both SNAP and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) during the same month. Those choosing to switch from SNAP to FDPIR will not be eligible for FDPIR benefits until December, given that the enrollment window for November participation has now closed.