



Government Shutdown Impact and Action Partner Agency Q&A: October 24, 2025

Q: Will families receive SNAP in November?

A: Disruptions and delays are likely. Some households may receive benefits late; others may experience interruptions due to new work requirements. We will issue verified updates when federal guidance is released.

Q: Should we be telling SNAP households anything proactive right now?

A: Yes — encourage households to **keep their recertification appointments and respond promptly to any DSS requests**. Non-shutdown related interruptions in benefits are avoidable if paperwork and interviews are completed on time. You do not need to advise them on eligibility — simply reinforce the importance of completing required steps to prevent unnecessary disruptions.

Q: Should we plan for a surge?

A: Yes. Prepare for increased requests for food assistance early in the month from SNAP-connected households and adults affected by new rule reviews.

Q: Is Second Harvest increasing food supply to agencies?

A: Yes. We are releasing holiday Family Meal Boxes early – sometime during the week of October 27 – AND purchasing additional Family Meals Boxes containing general staple food items to stabilize agency distributions during this period.

Q: For how long will increased purchasing continue?

A: We are stabilizing November. Additional actions will depend on federal outcomes, real-time conditions reported through the network, and available resources.

Q: What should we tell families now?

A: Avoid speculation. Explain that federal decisions are still being finalized and delays are possible. Do not reassure that benefits are guaranteed. We will provide language once guidance is official.

Q: Should we refer families directly to Second Harvest?

A: Second Harvest does not serve individual families directly; however, if your agency reaches a crisis threshold, notify your Partnership Manager immediately.

Q: Is TEFAP safe?

A: TEFAP is expected to continue through December. If the shutdown continues, reductions in deliveries are a possibility.

Q: Is Second Harvest advocating publicly?

A: Yes. We are communicating with policymakers and media and will continue to do so.

Q: What about holiday / seasonal distributions?

A: We expect seasonal demand to compound the federal disruption. Holiday Family Meal Boxes are being distributed early (sometime during the week of October 27) and an additional order has been placed for Family Meals Boxes containing staple food items. Continue planning and report emerging strains early so we can assess network-wide needs.