



Timeline of Trump Failure to Fund SNAP Benefits – November 2025

September 30, 2025

Federal government shutdown begins after Congress fails to pass a continuing resolution. SNAP benefits continue temporarily using contingency funds.

October 10, 2025

USDA issues a [notice](#) to all state SNAP agencies directing them not to send case issuance files to EBT processors until further notice, citing uncertainty in funding due to the ongoing shutdown. This stopped the process of benefits being issued on time, read about [process here](#).

October 18-20, 2025

USDA rescinds its previous [contingency plan](#), to keep SNAP running during a government shutdown by using contingency funds — It [deleted](#) it from the website.

USDA issues two internal memos claiming that contingency funding cannot be used to issue full benefits and that only partial benefits may be feasible.

October 22, 2025

Senate Democrats [send a letter](#) to Secretary Rollins urging the USDA to explore all legal means to augment funds to pay the full amount of SNAP benefits in November.

October 23, 2025

Mayors send a [letter](#) to USDA asking them to fund SNAP benefits.

Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Susan Collins (R-ME) [sends a letter](#) to Secretary Rollins to consider all available options in accordance with federal law to ensure nutrition assistance continues, including using contingency funds and viability of partial payments or transfer authority.

October 24, 2025

Attorneys general from multiple states send a [letter](#) to USDA demanding clarification on contingency and reserve fund availability for SNAP.

House Democrats [send a letter](#) urging USDA to use contingency funds for bulk of November benefits.

October 28, 2025

The first multistate lawsuit is [filed](#) by state attorneys general, led by Massachusetts, against the Trump administration for failure to issue November SNAP benefits.

Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) [send a letter](#) to Secretary Rollins in opposition to USDA's decision not to use contingency to pay SNAP benefits in November, despite the legal authority to do so.

October 29, 2025

Governors [send a letter](#) to the President asking him to fund SNAP.

Christian Leaders in the [Circle of Protection](#) issue [statement](#) calling on Congress to negotiate an end to the government shutdown and urge the administration to do everything in its power to ensure families receive full SNAP benefits in November.

October 30, 2025

A second lawsuit was [filed](#) by a coalition of national nonprofits and advocacy groups seeking emergency relief to require USDA to fund full November benefits.

New York House Democrats [send a letter](#) to the President and Secretary Rollins urging immediate action to ensure beneficiaries receive their benefits without delay.

October 31, 2025

U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani (Massachusetts) and U.S. District Judge John McConnell (Rhode Island) hold emergency hearings. Both [find](#) that USDA has the authority to use contingency funds and order the agency to begin issuing November SNAP benefits immediately.

November 4, 2025

USDA releases the first memo instructing states to begin calculations [for partial](#) benefit issuance, estimated at 50% of normal allotments. States must reprogram systems to comply.

November 5, 2025

Following confusion among states, USDA issues a [second guidance](#) memo with different calculations 65%, compounding administrative burden and delaying benefits.

November 6, 2025

- Judge McConnell orders the Trump administration to [fully fund](#) November SNAP benefits using reserve accounts, calling USDA's delays 'arbitrary and capricious.'
- [Vice President JD Vance](#) slammed the decision by the District Court in Rhode Island as an "absurd ruling," telling reporters Nov. 6, that "In the middle of a shutdown, we can't have a federal judge telling the president how he must triage the situation."
- The Department of Justice files an appeal, and the trial court denies DOJ's motion for a stay, confirming that USDA must proceed with full benefit issuance.
- Some states submit files, and some states are funding full and partial benefits.

November 7, 2025

- The Trump administration [appeals](#) to the appeals court seeking relief from the Appeals Court. If no stay is granted, USDA must direct states to transmit issuance files to EBT vendors by close of business. Failure to comply could result in contempt of court against senior USDA officials, including Secretary Rollins.
- FNS issues guidance that it is [moving](#) to implement full November 2025 benefit issuances in compliance with the November 6, 2025, order from the District Court of Rhode Island. It further stated that it would complete the steps needed to make funds available so states can transmit full issuance files to their EBT processors.
- FNS [officials verbally](#) reinforced the guidance in follow-up calls with at least one state agency, assuring them that full benefit issuance was moving forward. This lack of transparency created a false sense of certainty and set states up for operational whiplash when the situation changed only hours later.
- The appeals court [denied](#) the motion for a stay.
- The Trump administration [files](#) an appeal to the Supreme Court. Late at night, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson [grants](#) a temporary administrative stay through the weekend, instructing the lower court to issue a prompt decision on the underlying case.
- During this period, states [began](#) transmitting their benefit issuance files. By the end of the day, many more states had issued full benefits, and others had issued partial full benefits, depending on recipients' Social Security number sequences and system readiness.

November 8, 2025

- States work to issue benefits.

- USDA issues a late-Saturday memorandum instructing states that *“to the extent States sent full SNAP payment files for November 2025, this was unauthorized,”* and ordering them to *“immediately undo any steps taken to issue full SNAP benefits.”* The memo further warned that *“failure to comply with this memorandum may result in USDA taking various actions, including cancellation of the Federal share of State administrative costs and holding States liable for any over issuances.”*

November 9, 2025

- The appeals court again denies the Trump administration's motion. Stating that: *For low-income Americans, SNAP is a vital bulwark against hunger and food insecurity. Access to food is, of course, a basic human need.* The temporary administrative stay granted by Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson remains in effect for 48 hours, which gives the administration the opportunity to appeal to the Supreme Court.

November 10, 2025

- The Trump administration appeals the decision of the appeals court to the Supreme Court, continuing its fight against providing full November benefits and the harm and chaos the delay is causing.
- The District Court of Massachusetts grants a temporary restraining order to the November 8, 2025 USDA guidance that directed states *to immediately undo any steps taken to issue full SNAP benefits for November 2025.*

November 11, 2025

- The Supreme Court extends the stay on the previous court orders to provide full November SNAP benefits through Thursday, November 13 at 11:59 pm, instead of following the recommendation of the nonprofits and advocacy groups who asked the Supreme Court to "deny the government's application and not allow any further delay in getting vital food assistance to people who need it now,".

