

Federal Government Shutdown Impacts on SNAP

November 6, 2025

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Agenda



- Timeline
- Impact on Residents
- Staff Response
- Community Response
- Incident Command Structure

Timeline



- 10/10: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) notified the Minnesota Department of children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) of insufficient federal funds to pay November SNAP benefits if shutdown continues
- 10/14: DCYF alerted Counties of USDA direction to delay benefit transmission effective at 10:00 pm.
- 10/15: DCYF alerted Counties delayed benefit transmission was pushed out, to this day at 10:00 pm.
- 10/16: DCYF alerted Counties that the delayed benefit transition was further pushed out to 10/31.
- 10/21: SNAP and Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) recipients received text and email from DCYF alerting of upcoming benefits pause
- 10/27: Governor Walz announced \$4M in new funding for Minnesota food shelves
- 10/31: Last day SNAP cases could be approved

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Impact Data by Population & City Dukota



Data forthcoming

Impact on residents



- Dakota County SNAP Participants
 - o ~11,700 households/22,000 individuals
- MN Average SNAP Benefit: \$157 per person/month
- Benefits delivered between 4-13th of month
 - This is when participants will feel the absence of their benefits
- SCAM Alert: Targeting SNAP recipients claiming available funds

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Staff Response



- Prioritized SNAP and MFIP processing
- Overtime push prior to Oct 31 processing deadline
- 1,542 SNAP applications/renewals dispositioned between Oct 14 - Oct 31

Community Response



- \$5.5M in new funding for MN food shelves
- The Open Door: Shutdown Support Saturdays
- 360 Communities: Fresh Food Giveaway
- Food Drives with matching funds
- Community Meals; local businesses & faith-based organizations







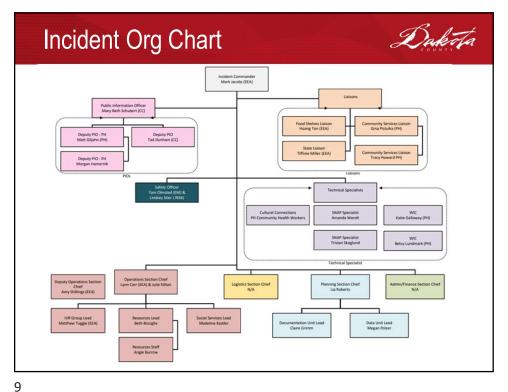


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Incident Command System Activation



- Utilized the Community Services Emergency
 Preparedness Team to activate the Incident Command
 System as requested by the CS Division Director.
- Initial meeting 10/17; planning meetings 10/22, 10/29
- Harnessing efforts among E&EA, Public Health, Social Services, Communications, and Risk/Emergency Management.
- Coordinating food resources, community response, and messaging to residents.



Incident Objectives



- 1. Provide timely and culturally informed communication to staff, partner organizations, affected communities, and the public.
- 2. Determine the resources available to residents to supplement SNAP & MFIP.
- 3. Maintain situational awareness around other federal and state assistance programs.
- 4. Ensure response activities are coordinated with community partners and other Minnesota state assistance programs.
- 5. Establish clear and consistent documentation, data collection, and reporting procedures for the emergency response.

Key Actions to Date



- Developed a Teams channel and response thread for the Incident Command System team to share real time updates.
- Developed internal communications for E&EA, Community Services Division and all county staff.
- Coordinating external communications with County Communications and Public Affairs.
- Gathered and cross walked existing resources guide for consistency and shared widely across departments and the county website.
- Convened meeting with major Dakota County food shelves on 10/22 and continue to communicate as new information arises.
- Pursing existing food options such as food RX and emergency food bags in E&EA lobby.
- Coordinating data collection to capture the response and the community impact.

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Looking Forward



- Continue coordination with food shelves around capacity and resource needs.
- Provide continued communications to the community, partners and county staff.
- Monitor potential impacts to WIC and other county programs if the federal shutdown continues.
- Maintain situational awareness around external efforts, such as national organizations petitioning emergency funds for WIC.
- Hold weekly planning meetings with the ICS team.

Latest Updates & Questions



11/03: USDA to report to the court the amount of funding available in the federal SNAP contingency fund and other sources, for November benefits