



Federal Government Shutdown Impacts on SNAP

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Agenda



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

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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



- Data forthcoming

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Impact on residents



- Dakota County SNAP Participants
 - ~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

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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



**OPEN DOOR
FOOD PANTRY**



360 Communities.
Help in the moment. Hope for the future.



Hastings Family Service



neighborsinc.

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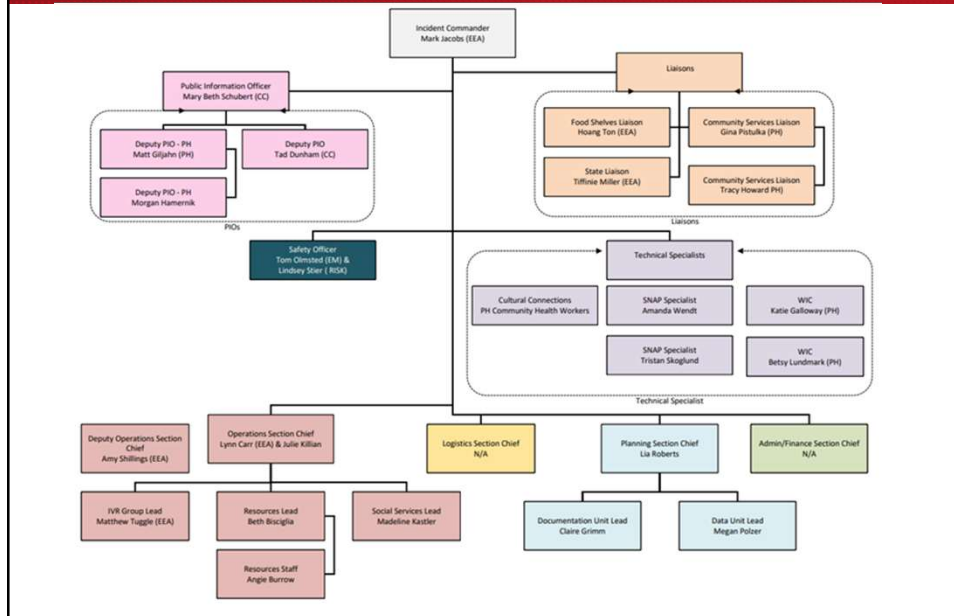
Incident Command System Activation



- 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.

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Incident Org Chart



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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.

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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.

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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