

Q&A with FNS on Early SNAP Issuance for February Benefits

Q. What happens if the government reopens prior to the release of February SNAP benefits in January?

A. Given the short timeframe before the early issuance files are due to the processors, it is critical that States continue working toward the deadlines provided to ensure eligible households receive benefits for February. If the status of appropriations changes in the coming days, FNS expects that States will likely move forward with the early issuance; States would not be required to make changes to their plans.

Q. Who should customers contact if they have questions on their benefits?

A. State customer call centers will be up and running.

Q. How long can customers maintain February benefits received in January on their EBT card?

A. These benefits are subject to normal expungement timeframes.

Q. What information has been relayed by USDA to SNAP participants on the early benefit issuance?

A. It is the responsibility of the states to inform the customers, USDA has focused on coordinating early distribution with the states and informing retailers.

Q. What plans have been made for March SNAP benefits?

A. USDA is hopeful that the February solution announced this week provides Congress with enough time to enact a full year appropriation. While we would explore all options in case the lapse continues, we are hopeful that Congress will provide appropriations legislation that the President can sign.