

**SUBJECT: DISCUSSION – FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN –
COMMUNITY IMPACTS**

DATE: NOVEMBER 3, 2025

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SUMMARY:

The federal government shutdown is now impacting SNAP (food assistance) benefits. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will not send states the money for November SNAP benefits. This is impacting all SNAP households, with next steps and timing for remedy unknown at this point. For Louisville, [Boulder County administers SNAP benefits](#) via EBT cards and is encouraging people to continue applying for benefits and renewals, as well as seek resources (below). This is consistent with messaging from the [State of Colorado](#), which also encourages people to seek resources (below).

- Visit the [Colorado 211 website](#) or Dial 2-1-1 or (866)760-5489
- Visit [Feeding Colorado Resources](#) or email info@feedingcolorado.org
- Visit [Boulder County Findhelp](#)
- Call 2-1-1 or 866-760-6489 or visit the [211 Colorado website](#)
- Search the [Feeding Colorado food finder](#) or email info@feedingcolorado.org

Boulder County has shared that even if the shutdown were to end immediately, November benefit issuance would still be delayed because of the processing time required to load benefits onto EBT cards. It remains unclear whether SNAP recipients will permanently lose November benefits or if they will be retroactively applied once the shutdown ends.

This is impacting Louisville residents. Boulder County has provided data for East County, including Lafayette, Louisville, and Superior.

SNAP recipients between October 2024 – September 2025 (inclusive of Expedited SNAP)

	East County (Lafayette, Louisville, Superior)
Number of unique individuals served	3,794
Number of unique households served	2,044
Number of children	1,406
Number of adults	2,388

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In Colorado, [WIC](#) benefits remain available through State efforts to temporarily fund the program through at least October 2025. There are currently no impacts for [Health First Colorado \(Colorado's Medicaid program\)](#) and [Child Health Plan Plus \(CHP+\)](#). The State of Colorado keeps a Federal Funding Cuts to Colorado page.

BACKGROUND / PRIOR DISCUSSIONS:

This is the first discussion on this topic, though a related item, potential special contributions to support community organizations, was brought up at the end of the 10/21/2025 City Council Meeting in items for future discussion.

ANALYSIS:

Boulder County is taking a number of actions in response to the SNAP benefit impact:

- Weekly coordination meetings have been established with Boulder County Family Resource Centers (FRCs) and food banks to assess and plan for projected needs. The City of Boulder and Community Foundation are participating in these meetings.
 - Data on potential increases in need has been shared with FRCs and food banks to support local planning.
 - The El Pomar Foundation may consider providing funding support to local food banks and the Board is anticipated to review the request at an upcoming meeting.
 - FRCs and food banks have expressed that unrestricted monetary donations and food donations are the most helpful forms of support at this time.
- Starting October 31st, Human Services will distribute “snack bags” to community members applying for or receiving benefits who need immediate food to bridge a 24–48 hour gap before accessing other food sources.
- A communication has been sent to community partners, and Human Services leadership has met with the City of Boulder Housing & Human Services team (at their request) to reinforce our key message: “Community members should continue to apply for benefits.”
- A community partner call is scheduled for November 12, 2025, where updates will be shared along with reminders about resources.
- Eligibility technicians are referring all SNAP applicants and recipients aged 60 and older to the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for additional resource navigation and support.
- The Adult Protection Services (APS) team is prioritizing food access outreach for individuals currently open to APS services.

The State of Colorado is also taking actions:

- The state is awaiting data from FNS on community members with “zero balance” EBT cards going into November. This information will help identify individuals most in need of immediate support.
- Plain-language communications in both English and Spanish were sent to SNAP recipients informing them of the November benefit pause.

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- A rumor circulated that some vendors had stopped accepting EBT cards out of concern they would not be reimbursed. The state has confirmed this is not true—no vendors have stopped accepting EBT, and FNS has reiterated to all vendors that refusing EBT is a violation of their contract.
- The total statewide SNAP benefit gap for November is approximately \$120 million. On October 22, 2025, the Governor recommended \$10 million in emergency funding to support food banks and help offset the gap.
- The state has also announced a new philanthropic initiative through [Feeding Colorado](#) that invites individuals and businesses to help meet the growing demand for food assistance by donating, and is [launching a map](#) to show where Coloradans rely most on SNAP support.
- HR.1 SNAP work requirements take effect on November 1, 2025, which may result in some current recipients losing eligibility. Data and analysis on this will be shared as it becomes available.

2025 COUNCIL WORK PLAN:

This discussion supports Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Budgeted?: **Not Applicable**

ALTERNATIVE(S):

N/A - Discussion

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A - Discussion

ATTACHMENT(S):

None