

### Partial Government Shutdown-Impact on SNAP Recipients

#### How does the partial government shutdown affect my EBT and food stamp (SNAP) benefits in January and February?

- Your January benefits should be deposited on your EBT card on the normally scheduled day.
- You will probably receive your February food stamp benefits early, around January 20, 2019.
- If you get extra benefits on your EBT card around January 20, you will **NOT** receive additional benefits in February.
- If you get February benefits in January make sure to spend them carefully. Stretch what you have for as long as possible because you will not get additional benefits in February.
- You can use your EBT card normally throughout the shutdown and your benefits will last 365 days from when you get them. Grocery stores that now accept your EBT card will continue to accept it, even while the government is shut down.

#### Will I receive benefits in February?

- If you receive your February benefits around January 20th, then you will **NOT** receive an additional deposit in February. You should treat your early deposit as your February deposit and plan carefully. Consider setting aside that money until later in February to make sure they last until your next deposit.
- If you do not receive your February benefits around January 20, you should probably receive them on your regular date in February. Watch carefully for notices for DHR or on this site during February because things may change as the shutdown continues.

#### Can I use my EBT benefits during the shutdown?

- Yes, you can use all EBT and Food Stamp benefits normally during the shutdown. You can still shop at the same stores and use any benefits that are currently on your card.

#### What if my recertification date is in January or February?

- If your recertification date is in January or February, you should still submit your paperwork as soon as possible, but you might not receive the February payout on January 20th. If you do not receive your February benefits on January 20th, there is still a good chance you might get your February benefits on the normal date. We will update this site as we know more about this possibility.

#### When will I get my next benefit?

- After your early deposit, we expect that your next benefit will be on your regular deposit date in March. However, that will only happen if the government shutdown ends by then.

#### How can I stretch my food stamps during January and February?

- Generally buying fresh fruits and vegetables is healthier for your family. But, if it's hard for you to get to a grocery store on a regular basis, buy canned and/or frozen vegetables and meats (if you have freezer space) so that you don't risk food spoiling.