



January 8, 2019

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

3101 Park  
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA  
22302-1500

SUBJECT: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)  
State Issuance Files for February 2019

TO: SNAP State Agency Directors  
All States

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) wants to extend our appreciation to States for their work to serve those eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, particularly during this period of uncertainty associated with a lapse in federal appropriation. As we stated in our correspondence of December 26, 2018, SNAP has funding available for benefits and operations through the month of January. FNS has determined that funding for February benefits is available for State Agencies through early issuance.

In order to move forward with this contingency plan:

- We are directing States to hold their February issuance files and delay transmission to State electronic benefit transfer (EBT) vendors immediately.
- States would, instead, implement an early issuance strategy, providing February benefits to SNAP participants on or before January 20, 2019.

We will be working with States individually on how this approach is executed, in order to issue benefits to eligible households in the most efficient and equitable manner possible. We appreciate the partnership with States that administer this critical nutrition assistance program and will continue to keep you apprised with information as we exercise due diligence in our prudent oversight of the program.

Sincerely,

Jessica Shahin  
Associate Administration  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program