



Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

Park Office  
Center

3101 Park  
Center Drive  
Alexandria  
VA 22302

SUBJECT: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)  
State Issuance Files for October, 2015

DATE: SEP 23 2015

TO: SNAP State Agency Directors  
All States

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) wants to extend our continued appreciation to States for their work to serve those eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. We appreciate the immediate attention States gave to FNS' communication of September 18, 2015, to hold October 2015 issuance files until further notice. This communication is in follow up and provides additional direction relating to October 2015 issuance files.

The Administration strongly believes that a lapse in appropriations should not occur and there is enough time for Congress to prevent it. FNS is directing States to send their issuance files to their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) vendors without further delay. This is to ensure that October benefits can be issued on a timely basis. If Congress passes a funding bill, and does not cause a lapse in appropriations then October benefits will be issued in full to all recipients, as per standard operating procedure.

However, should Congress fail to act, USDA would have limited resources to finance October SNAP benefits and would be required by law to ensure that USDA does not incur obligations for which funding is not available. This would require USDA to take steps, including the de-authorization of retailers in the first several days of the month to prevent SNAP benefits from being redeemed during an appropriations lapse.

I want to personally thank you for your efforts on behalf of low-income Americans by administering this critical nutrition assistance program. My staff and I will continue to keep you apprised of the situation.

Sincerely,

Audrey Rowe  
Administrator  
Food and Nutrition Services