

Governor Phil Murphy

# ICYMI: Federal Uncertainty Threatens Reliability of New Jersey SNAP and WIC Programs

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**TRENTON** – At this time, New Jersey’s SNAP and WIC participants continue to receive benefits and services are open. Participants can continue to access food and other necessities throughout October; however, we are deeply concerned that federal actions may compromise access in November.

If the federal funding delay continues, there could be interruptions to full and on-time benefit payments in November. This could make it harder for families across New Jersey to buy the food they need. More than 800,000 residents rely on SNAP each month, and nearly 165,000 women and children count on WIC for healthy foods and nutrition support. At this point in time, benefits for SNAP are guaranteed through October 31, 2025, and for WIC through November 10, 2025, and the State will continue to provide updates if those timeframes can be extended.

No Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 funds for benefits or administration have been appropriated at this time. Federal guidance and contingency plans continue to evolve. Over the past week, the Trump Administration clawed back and reallocated a fraction of remaining federal FY2025 WIC funds and has provided additional non-appropriated funds for WIC. The Trump Administration also advised states to delay transmitting November SNAP benefit issuance files to electronic benefit transfer (EBT) vendors until further notice. Historically, when the federal government reopens, all federal programs are funded retroactively, but no such assurances have been made to-date.

Federal uncertainty is also placing significant strain and anxiety on local partners who serve as lifelines for nourishing foods in New Jersey communities. The NJ Department of Human Services alerted retailers that accept SNAP, which includes more than 5,000 stores, grocers, and farmers markets, of the USDA directive to hold monthly benefits and daily transaction files for November. Community-based food banks, food pantries, and other organizations that provide SNAP navigation support to neighbors applying or recertifying for benefits have been alerted of the same directive, along with the county social service agencies that administer SNAP.

The NJ Department of Health is in close contact with all 16 WIC agency sponsors who serve all 21 counties and are delivering services despite the federal shutdown. There are approximately 900 WIC retailers across New Jersey who would be impacted by continued federal funding disruptions.

State agencies will continue to provide updated information as it becomes available.

For SNAP, information will be updated at [njsnap.gov \(https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/\)](https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/) and on the Department of Human Services’ social media channels (@NJ DHS).



For WIC, notices will be updated at [nj.gov/health](https://www.nj.gov/health/) (<https://www.nj.gov/health/>) and on the NJ Department of Health's social media channels (@njdeptofhealth).

These SNAP and WIC notices will also be shared on the NJ Office of the Food Security Advocate's social media channels (@NJOFSA) and at [nj.gov/foodsecurity](https://nj.gov/foodsecurity/) (<https://nj.gov/foodsecurity/>).

Residents can locate food pantries and community kitchens via NJ 211 [here](https://nj211.org/resource-search/Food%20Pantries?source=guided) (<https://nj211.org/resource-search/Food%20Pantries?source=guided>) and information about the School Meal Application [here](https://nj.gov/foodsecurity/our-work/initiatives/index.shtml#SummerEBTApplication) (<https://nj.gov/foodsecurity/our-work/initiatives/index.shtml#SummerEBTApplication>).

### **About SNAP**

New Jersey's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NJ SNAP (<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/>)) provides vital food assistance to help lower income individuals and families afford nutritious groceries, improve food security, and support their overall health and well-being. Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered by the New Jersey Department of Human Services, NJ SNAP serves as the state's primary safety net against hunger, empowering households to purchase healthy food while contributing to local economies through participating retailers.

### **About WIC**

The New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children ("WIC") is a federally funded program that provides nutrition and breastfeeding education, nutritious foods, and improved access to regular health care and social services to low and moderate-income pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women and young children with, or at risk of developing nutrition-related health problems.

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