

## Trump Continues to Fight to Take Food Away from Seniors, Children

### Overview

The Trump administration is fighting tooth and nail to cut SNAP benefits for hungry seniors, children, veterans, working people and people with disabilities. Instead of doing the right thing, the Trump administration is fighting to illegally withhold food assistance from 42 million Americans. Below is a summary of the legal proceedings and message guidance as of 2:00 pm ET on Friday, November 7, 2025.

This document accounts for USDA's November 7 memo suggesting that it was "working towards implementing November 2025 full benefit issuances in compliance with the November 6, 2025, order from the District Court of Rhode Island." Despite that memo, the administration is continuing its appeal of the court's ruling mandating full benefits be issued. We believe this could be a stalling tactic, and **it is imperative we continue to lean into the fact that the Trump administration is working to take food away from millions of Americans.**

### Our Message: Trump is taking food away from hungry Americans.

- The Trump administration has always had the money and authority to fully fund SNAP in November.
- The administration chose to cut benefits for 42 million Americans instead.
- Despite USDA issuing a memo to suggest the contrary, they are continuing to proactively fight to cut SNAP benefits by appealing the court ruling mandating they fully fund food assistance in November.
- The administration created this crisis and is now making it worse.
- The Trump administration would rather take away food from hardworking Americans, seniors and children than follow the law.

### Congressional Actions

- Ranking Member Angie Craig (MN-02) [has spoken out at every step of the way during this saga](#).
- [214 House Democrats sent a letter](#) to the USDA, asking them to follow the law and fully fund SNAP.
- Ranking Members Craig and Rosa DeLauro (CT-03) jointly [identified these SNAP cuts as illegal](#).
- Representative Jahana Hayes (CT-05) and Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) lead the [Keep SNAP and WIC Funded Act of 2025](#) to protect food assistance during the shutdown.

### Data Points

- This is the first time in SNAP's more than 60-year history that benefits have been delayed.
- According to a recent [Navigator survey](#):
  - 73 percent of respondents, including a majority of Democrats, independents and Republicans, are concerned about SNAP running out of funding.
  - If SNAP ran out of funding: 46 percent of respondents would blame Trump and Republicans; 25 percent would blame Democrats; and 21 percent would place equal blame on Republicans and Democrats.

## Timeline

- **September 30:** USDA publishes [government funding lapse plan](#) which states that SNAP contingency fund can be used to pay for SNAP benefits during a government shutdown.
- **October 23:** USDA leaks [two-page memo](#) to the media, contradicting its funding lapse plan, arguing that it does not have the legal authority to use the SNAP contingency fund.
- **October 24:** USDA [tells](#) states that November benefits are suspended until “sufficient funding is provided.”
- **October 24:** Multi-state coalition [of 26 attorneys general sue the Trump administration](#) to release SNAP benefits, in part by using the SNAP contingency fund.
- **October 31:** U.S. District Court [judges in Massachusetts and Rhode Island rule](#) in two different cases that the Trump administration must use the SNAP contingency funds to at minimum pay partial SNAP benefits in November. The Rhode Island ruling goes a step further, asserting that the government has an obligation to ensure SNAP is fully funded and giving the administration some discretion in identifying funds to meet the full cost of November benefits.
- **November 3:** Trump administration [presents a plan](#) to the courts that cuts November SNAP benefits by 50 percent and does not exercise discretion to fully fund SNAP.
- **November 4:** President Trump declares that he will [withhold SNAP benefits](#) – despite the court order – until the government shutdown ends.
- **November 5:** New York Times [reporting on analysis](#) from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) and subsequent [filings](#) in the Rhode Island court case show that the administration’s plan to issue partial benefits would’ve only spent 2/3 of SNAP’s contingency funding. Late in the evening, USDA [announces](#) a new plan that would reduce benefits by 35 percent instead of 50 percent.
- **November 6:** The U.S. District Court in Rhode Island finds the Trump administration in violation of its October 31 ruling and explicitly “[orders the Administration to make the full SNAP payment](#) to the states by tomorrow, Friday, November 7, utilizing available Section 32 funds in combination with the contingency funds.” The administration immediately filed a notice of appeal with the First Circuit.
- **November 7:** Around 10:00 AM ET, the Trump administration asked the First Circuit Court of Appeals to stay the Rhode Island court’s November 6 order requiring full benefits to be disbursed, arguing that it is lawful to unilaterally cut November SNAP benefits during a shutdown and that there is no mandate to fully fund benefits. They requested the First Circuit weigh in by 4:00 PM ET the same day.
- **November 7:** At 12:30 PM ET, [USDA issued a memo to states](#) explaining that “FNS is working towards implementing November 2025 full benefit issuances in compliance with the November 6, 2025, order from the District Court of Rhode Island.” This could be an effort by the Trump administration to avoid being in held in contempt of court while dragging out the issuance of full benefits.