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USDA to Provide SNAP Benefits After Federal Government Shutdown Ends

Hagåtña, Guam – The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) announced that, following the signing of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Appropriations Act on November 13, 2025, the federal government shutdown has officially ended. As a result, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has confirmed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will return to normal operations, including November 2025 benefits.

The recent federal government shutdown marked the first time in the program's history that SNAP funding had lapsed, impacting approximately 42 million people nationwide. The passage of the FY 2026 Appropriations Act restores full funding to the USDA, allowing for regular SNAP operations to resume through September 2026.

This update supersedes previous guidance regarding potential pauses or reductions in federally funded SNAP benefits due to the federal government shutdown. DPHSS is working closely with the USDA and local partners to help ensure all eligible families receive their SNAP benefits as quickly as possible. DPHSS will provide updates as more information becomes available and encourages recipients to monitor official communications channels for the latest guidance.

"This is welcomed news with the holidays fast approaching. Guam was one of the few states/territories that was able to help the people during the federal shutdown. I am proud of the hard work of the DPHSS team in ensuring a seamless issuance of the locally funded, General Food Assistance Benefits. I want to thank Governor Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Josh Tenorio and the 38th Guam Legislature for working swiftly to ensure no family goes hungry" stated DPHSS Director Theresa Arriola

What This Means for SNAP Eligible Families

- Eligible households will receive the full federal SNAP benefit amount for November 2025.
- No adverse action notices will be issued; benefits will be issued automatically.

- New applicants determined to be eligible for SNAP during November 2025 will receive the full allotment per USDA guidelines.
- The process for calculating benefits will remain unchanged.
- Locally funded General Food Assistance Benefits (GFAB) already issued to eligible recipients will not be affected.
- With the end of the federal government shutdown, locally funded GFAB is no longer available. All benefits will be funded federally through the USDA.

The Government of Guam is proud to have been able to support our community with locally funded GFAB during a time of uncertainty and will always collaborate to solve problems for the residents of Guam. We recognize the challenges this period has presented and deeply appreciate the patience and resilience shown by our communities during these unprecedented circumstances. Moving forward, DPHSS will continue to work closely with federal and local partners to strengthen contingency plans and help ensure that essential services like SNAP remain accessible and reliable even in times of uncertainty. Thank you for your trust and cooperation as we work together to safeguard the well-being of all families and the community.

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