

## Important information for SNAP recipients about your February 2019 benefits

The partial shutdown of the federal government has an impact on SNAP benefits nationwide. SNAP benefits *will* be issued for the month of February, despite the shutdown, but those February benefits will be issued EARLY in Pennsylvania, on **January 18, 2019**.

Therefore, you will receive a second issuance of SNAP benefits on your Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card on January 18, 2019. These benefits are intended for use *for the month of February*, not for the month of January.



Please be aware that SNAP benefits received on January 18<sup>th</sup> are NOT “extra” SNAP; take extra care to budget food purchases with this in mind, as *no SNAP benefits will actually be issued during the month of February at all, to anyone*. The SNAP money that you will need in order to purchase food in February will be issued to you *in January*.

We do not yet know what the status of SNAP benefits will be for March 2019. But if the federal government fully reopens by March, you will get your March benefits on your normal SNAP benefit date. This means that, for example, if you typically get SNAP on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, you will need to stretch out the payment made *this Friday* until March 15th!

Residents of southeastern PA (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery or Philadelphia counties) should contact the Coalition Against Hunger’s SNAP hotline at 215-430-0556 for more information and updates.