



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Social Services

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEV DUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

YVONNE COPELAND • Director, Division of Child and
Family Well-Being

November 6, 2025

Dear County Directors of Social Services,

Attention: Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Administrators, Managers and
Supervisors

Subject: Update for November Partial Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Benefits –
Revised USDA Issuance Table for November 2025

Priority: Information Only and Action

This letter is sent as a follow up to the [Update for November Partial Food and Nutrition Services \(FNS\) Benefits - Information Only and Action](#) that was transmitted to counties on November 5, 2025. USDA issued a revised memorandum late yesterday ordering State Agencies to issue November 2025 SNAP benefits at a 35% reduction of the maximum allotment, instead of the 50% reduction previously required. USDA's Reduced Allotments tables are attached to this transmittal.

Working through the night, the NC FAST team was able to efficiently reprogram, test, and batch process November 2025 SNAP issuance files to comply with USDA's order to reduce SNAP benefits under the new reduction table. NCDHHS is transmitting November 2025 issuance files to our EBT vendor, FIS, this evening. We anticipate that benefits will be issued to eligible households on November 7. The delay in benefits is already impacting thousands of people in North Carolina who rely on SNAP for food and nutrition support.

NCDHHS is closely monitoring the situation and will continue to update partners and beneficiaries. NCDHHS is also aware that District Court Judge John McConnell in *Rhode Island State Council of Churches, et. al., v. Brooke Rollins* has ordered the Trump administration to release full funding for November SNAP by Friday. NCDHHS is closely monitoring the situation and will continue to update County partners and beneficiaries once we receive additional guidance from USDA. If full November 2025 SNAP benefits are restored, NCDHHS will take quick action to restore full November SNAP benefits to the approximately 1.3 million North Carolinians who look to the SNAP program for support to feed their family during times of need.

Reduction of Benefits

In accordance with the current revised issuance tables provided by the USDA on November 5, 2025, partial payment issuance files will be transmitted this evening to FIS.

Payments will NOT be made equally to all households. Some households will receive roughly 65% of their current benefit, but others will receive significantly less or no payment at all.

Because of how the partial payments are structured, it's easier to think of these partial benefits as calculated by **subtracting a fixed dollar amount** from the household's existing benefit. This fixed dollar amount is based on the household size, not a percentage.

Current messaging that refers to a "35% benefit reduction" or "65% of benefits" is inaccurate for most households.

Under USDA's current benefit reduction directive, the overall methodology for calculating the household's issued allotment remains the same. A household's monthly allotment is equal to the maximum SNAP allotment for the household's size reduced by 30 percent of the household's net monthly income. The USDA then reduces benefits by reducing maximum SNAP allotments amounts for each household size by 65 percent. This results in all households of a given size having their benefits reduced by the same dollar amount. Given the SNAP calculation methodology, this means the reduction is smallest for one-person households and greatest for the largest households. Since the dollar amount would be the same for all households of the same size, the rate of reduction is lowest for zero net income households and greatest for the highest net income households, with many households receiving no benefits under USDA's methodology.

For ease of understanding, the partial benefit calculation can be understood as follows:

New Benefit = Current Benefit - "Dollar Loss" from table below

Household Size	Standard Maximum	Revised Maximum (reduced by 35%)	Dollar Loss
1	\$298	\$193	-\$105
2	\$546	\$355	-\$191
3	\$785	\$510	-\$275
4	\$994	\$646	-\$348
5	\$1,183	\$769	-\$414
6	\$1,421	\$924	-\$497
7	\$1,571	\$1,021	-\$550

8	\$1,789	\$1,163	-\$626
Each additional person	+\$218	+\$142	-\$76

If the result is negative AND household size is 1-2 people, the household receives \$16 minimum under USDA's revised directive.

If the result is negative AND household size is 3+ people, the household receives \$0.

Examples Illustrating Different Impacts

Example 1: Single person receiving \$100/month

- Current benefit: \$100
- Minus dollar loss: $\$100 - \$105 = -\$5$
- **November benefit: \$16 (minimum)**
- **Amount lost: \$84 (84% reduction)**

Example 2: Two-person household receiving \$250/month

- Current benefit: \$250
- Minus dollar loss: $\$250 - \$191 = \$59$
- **November benefit: \$59**
- **Amount lost: \$191 (76% reduction)**

Example 3: Family of 3 receiving \$350/month

- Current benefit: \$350
- Minus dollar loss: $\$350 - \$275 = \$75$
- **November benefit: \$75**
- **Amount lost: \$275 (79% reduction)**

Example 4: Family of 3 receiving \$200/month

- Current benefit: \$200
- Minus dollar loss: $\$200 - \$275 = -\$75$
- **November benefit: \$0**
- **Amount lost: \$200 (100% reduction)**

Example 5: Family of 4 receiving maximum benefit

- Current benefit: \$994
- Minus dollar loss: $\$994 - \$348 = \$646$
- **November benefit: \$646**
- **Amount lost: \$348 (35% reduction)**

Example 6: Family of 4 receiving \$450/month

- Current benefit: \$450
- Minus dollar loss: $\$450 - \$348 = \$102$
- **November benefit: \$102**
- **Amount lost: \$348 (77% reduction)**

Notice to Households

FNS households will be notified on NCDHHS's [Federal Government Shutdown](#) page of the revised reduction in benefits in accordance with the mass change notice requirements. A notice of adverse action is **NOT** required for households affected by this reduction.

Application Processing Procedures

While the current reduction is in effect, Counties must continue to **accept and process all applications** for benefits, including expedited applications, under usual procedure and timelines. Expedited applications must continue to be processed within 7 calendar days of the date of the application. The criteria for determining a household's eligibility remain unchanged. For applicants who qualify during this period, and provided that funding continues to be available, FNS benefit amounts will be calculated using the revised maximum allotment issuance tables.

Administrative Expenses

In guidance issued November 4, USDA stated that FNS is providing funding in November to cover administrative expenses to implement the reduction and ensure new applications and any case changes are accepted and processed. Counties must limit administrative expense only to the activities necessary to support eligibility and issuance processes, integrity/oversight, and system maintenance.

Certification Period Remains Unchanged

The reduction has no effect on the certification period assigned to the household. Households with certification periods expiring during November must continue to recertify under normal policy and procedure.

Fair Hearings

NCDHHS will not hold fair hearings for participants who request a fair hearing solely to dispute the fact that a reduction in their FNS benefits allotment has been ordered by USDA. Counties are instructed to deny fair hearing requests to households who are solely disputing the fact that a reduction was ordered. Counties must carefully discern the reason for the household's hearing request before denying the request under 7 CFR 271.7(f). Refer to [Updates on USDA's Suspension of November 2025 SNAP Benefit Issuances and Fair Hearing Requests - Information and Action](#) transmitted to counties on October 31, 2025, regarding fair hearing requests.

Messaging for FNS Participants

County staff may communicate the following script to FNS recipients:

On November 5th, the federal government directed NCDHHS and other states to issue November 2025 benefits at a 35% reduction of maximum allotments. There are a few important things to know about how this will impact November FNS benefits at this time.

The amount you receive will be less than what you normally get for your monthly benefit. Some households, that normally have smaller benefits, may not receive anything under the reduction directive. A 35% reduction in the "maximum allotment" does NOT mean everyone just gets 35% less. Most households will see a bigger impact because of how SNAP formulas work.

North Carolina DHHS is required by federal law to implement benefit reductions exactly as directed by the federal government. States do not have the option to provide different amounts or calculate the benefits in a different way.

How much you receive in November will depend on your household size and the amount of benefits you normally get.

- *Households that normally receive the maximum benefit will see about a 35% reduction. That means if you usually get the full amount for your household size, you will get about two-thirds of that this month.*
- *Households that normally receive less than the maximum will likely see a larger reduction. In some cases, especially for households with three or more people who usually receive smaller amounts, there may be no benefit issued this month.*
- *Households with one or two people will receive at least \$16, even if their calculated benefit would otherwise be lower.*

NCDHHS' website has information on how to calculate your expected benefit for November at ncdhhs.gov/shutdown.

You can check your balance in the ebtEDGE app or by calling the number on the back of your EBT card.

We know how important these benefits are. NCDHHS will continue to share updates on this situation on our website.

If asked, refer individuals to food resources in your county or the list of resources below:

- Food Bank of the Albemarle (Northeast NC)
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast NC (Fayetteville and Southeast NC)
- Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina (Greater Triangle Region through Coastal NC)
- Inter-Faith Food Shuttle (Greater Triangle Region)
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina (Greater Charlotte area)
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC (Greater Triad area and Northwest)
- MANNA Food Bank (Western NC)
- NC211 - Dial 2-1-1 or visit nc211.org to connect with local food pantries, meal programs, and other essential services. Available 24/7 and in multiple languages.

Helping FNS Participants Understand the Reduction Allotment

Due to the federal government shutdown, USDA directed us to reduce the maximum benefit amounts by 35% for November. However, this doesn't mean you will receive exactly half of what they usually get.

Your benefit amount is based on your household size and income. We calculate it by:

- *Starting with the reduced maximum for your household size*
- *Subtracting 30% of your net income*

Your actual benefit amount depends on your household size and income, just like it normally does. Some households may see a larger reduction, and some may see a smaller one, depending on their situation.

If you can tell me how many people are on your household for your FNS benefits, I can help you quickly estimate the amount of benefits you'll receive for November.

See chart below.

If you have a household size of	Then do the following steps to understand your expected benefit amount:
1	To calculate your expected benefit for a household of 1, subtract \$105 from your normal monthly FNS benefit amount. If that value is greater than \$16, you'll get that amount on your EBT card. If it is less than \$16, you'll get \$16. Your benefits were likely loaded on your card on November 7.
2	To calculate your expected benefit for a household of 2, subtract \$191 from your normal monthly FNS benefit amount. If that value is greater than \$16, you'll get that amount on your EBT card. If it is less than \$16, you'll get \$16. Your benefits were likely loaded on your card on November 7.
3	To calculate your expected benefit for a household of 3, subtract \$275 from your normal monthly FNS benefit amount. If the value is less than \$0 (if it is a negative number), you'll unfortunately not receive any benefits on your card for this issuance. Your benefits were likely loaded on your card on November 7.
4	To calculate your expected benefit for a household of 4, subtract \$348 from your normal monthly FNS benefit amount. If the value is less than \$0 (if it is a negative number), you'll unfortunately not receive any benefits on your card for this issuance. Your benefits were likely loaded on your card on November 7.

5	To calculate your expected benefit for a household of 5, subtract \$414 from your normal monthly FNS benefit amount. If the value is less than \$0 (if it is a negative number), you'll unfortunately not receive any benefits on your card for this issuance. Your benefits were likely loaded on your card on November 7.
6	To calculate your expected benefit for a household of 6, subtract \$497 from your normal monthly SNAP benefit amount. If the value is less than \$0 (if it is a negative number), you'll unfortunately not receive any benefits on your card for this issuance. Your benefits were likely loaded on your card on November 7.

For households that have special circumstances, such as active recoupment, this simplified formula will not allow you to predict the exact amount that will be on your card.

If you have questions, please submit them to Continuous Quality Improvement Support (CQIS): dss.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Brian Patrick Hogan
Deputy Director of Nutrition
Division of Child and Family Well-Being

Attachment (1)
Revised November 2025 Benefit Guidance Reduction Tables

BPH/vb

EFS-FNSEP-22-2025