



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Economic Services Administration
Community Services Division
Post Office Box 45440, Olympia, Washington 98504-5440

February 19, 2019

Dear Stakeholders and Advocates,

I am writing to update you regarding issuance dates for March food benefits as follow-up to the Dec 2018 / Jan 2019 partial federal government shutdown. I know you may receive questions and we ask that you please help us communicate this important information.

As you may recall, at the direction of USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), we issued most household's February Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits on January 20, 2019. USDA recently provided guidance, giving states permission to try to mitigate the long interval between the early February issuance (Jan 20) and the normal March issuance cycle.

For March 2019, we are moving up issuance normally scheduled toward the end of the month to the beginning of the month. Please see the table below for details.

If someone normally receives food benefits on:	They will receive their food benefits on:
March 11th	March 2nd
March 12th	March 3rd
March 13th	March 4th
March 14th	March 5th
March 15th	March 6th
March 16th	March 7th
March 17th	March 8th
March 18th	March 9th
March 19th	March 10th
March 20th	March 11th

If someone normally receives food benefits on the 1st – 10th of the month, their issuance date will not change. Please note that for people who receive their benefits early, that these benefits are not extra. As of today, we expect that April 2019 benefits will be issued on their regular issuance dates. If someone has questions about their benefits, please direct them to call the Constituent Service Contact Center at 1-877-501-2233.

The early issuance of food benefits applies to the following programs: Washington Basic Food Program (Basic Food), Washington Combined Application Project (WASHCAP), Food Assistance Program for Legal Immigrants (FAP), and Transitional Food Assistance (TFA).

Sincerely,

Babs Roberts, Director
Community Services Division