October 20, 2025

Dear Superintendents and BOCES directors,

We have been working with the Office of the Governor to continue to monitor the impact of the shutdown on Colorado children and families. Based on the most current information, the State of Colorado anticipates that if the government does not reopen by Oct. 22, families will experience delays in their SNAP benefits.

You can click here for a file with information about the number of SNAP clients in each Colorado zip code. Our School Nutrition Team will be working closely with nutrition directors across the state to ensure families know how to access local food resources.

We want to encourage you to share information with your families about the expected delay and share information with them about local resources. I have included messages in English and Spanish below that you can share on social media and through email. The Colorado Department of Human Services is also working on direct communications for families through multiple channels.

English
Due to the federal government shutdown, SNAP benefits for November may be delayed. School meals are still available. If you need additional food before your SNAP benefits are available, there are local resources that can help:

- *Colorado 211: Call 2-1-1- or 866-760-6489 or visit www.211colorado.org*
- *Feeding Colorado: Visit www.feedingcolorado.org/find-food or email info@feedingcolorado.org*
- *Hunger Free Colorado Food Resource Hotline: 855-855-4626*

Spanish
Debido al cierre del gobierno federal, es posible que se retrasen los beneficios del SNAP para noviembre. Las comidas escolares siguen estando disponibles. Si necesita alimentos adicionales antes de que estén

disponibles sus beneficios del SNAP, existen recursos locales que pueden ayudarle:

- *Colorado 211: Llame al 2-1-1 o al (866) 760-6489, o visite www.211colorado.org*
- *Feeding Colorado: Visite feedingcolorado.org/find-food o envíe un correo electrónico a info@feedingcolorado.org*
- *Hunger Free Colorado Línea directa de recursos alimentarios: (855) 855-4626*

Estas organizaciones pueden ponerle en contacto con bancos de alimentos locales, programas de comidas y recursos de emergencia en su comunidad.

The School Breakfast Program (SBP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP) both provide essential access to food for our students. We want to remind everyone that federal statute requires that the government reimburse for federal meal programs, even during a shutdown. At CDE, we do have funding available for reimbursements for the federal school meals program through the end of October. We anticipate that future reimbursements for SBP and NSLP may be somewhat delayed, depending on when the federal shutdown ends. If you have urgent needs, please contact Executive Director of School Nutrition Brehan Riley at riley_b@cde.state.co.us or 720-202-3338.

Warm Regards,

Susana Córdova