

Additional Detailed Information Concerning the Early SNAP Issuance

Under the authority of the last Continuing Resolution, the USDA has instructed States to begin processing the early issuance of February SNAP benefits and transmit them to their EBT providers no later than January 20, 2019.

Arkansas has developed the following processes and will issue February benefits on Thursday, January 17th for a **majority** of our SNAP caseload:

- A file will be sent to the DHS EBT provider on January 15th that includes all currently open cases with a certification end date of February 2019 and beyond. These benefits will have an availability date of January 17th.
- **Semi-Annual Reports that have not been received and applicants for recertification who have not submitted the required documentation by January 15th will not be included in that file and will be processed as normal for February and those individuals will receive their benefits according to the normal February availability dates.**
- Initial SNAP applications processed in January that were received and processed after the 15th of the month will receive both their January and aggregate February benefits with their January extract as usual.

It is important that SNAP participants understand that the benefits they receive on January 17th are their February benefits and that there will be no other benefit posting until March.

Note: You may receive calls from SNAP participants asking why they did not receive benefits on January 17th. Please advise these participants that they will receive their benefits as usual if they remain eligible pending any case actions that need to be made by agency staff. In most cases the delay will be the result of information being turned in after the cut-off date (for early file transmission) of January 15th, the SNAP Recertification Application was submitted untimely, or the local office did not complete the case action prior to the 15th. Regardless of the circumstances, please remind participants that they will continue to receive benefits as usual if they were not one of those in the early extract.

If you have any questions, please contact Erica McFadden at the Arkansas Foodbank emcfadden@arkansasfoodbank.org or contact your local DHS Office <https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/offices>