



September 18, 2015

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

SUBJECT: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
State Issuance Files for October, 2015

TO: SNAP State Agency Directors
All States

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) wants to extend our appreciation to States for their work to serve those eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. While we expect that we will soon have information regarding federal appropriations for fiscal year (FY) 2016 beginning October 1, 2015, we believe it is prudent to establish appropriate contingency plans related to the timing of the appropriation for FY 2016.

FNS appreciates and understands that States have questions regarding operation of the program, and has begun the process of fact finding and information gathering to be prepared in case a contingency plan must be implemented. With that in mind, we understand that several States will begin sending October benefit issuance files to their EBT vendors soon. Considering the operational issues and constraints that exist in automated systems, and in the interest of preserving maximum flexibility, we are directing States to hold their October issuance files and delay transmission to State electronic benefit transfer (EBT) vendors until further notice.

We appreciate the partnership with States that administer this critical nutrition assistance program and will continue to keep you apprised with information as we exercise due diligence in our prudent oversight of the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AR", written in a cursive style.

Audrey Rowe
FNS Administrator

Cc: Regional Directors
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
All Regions