

Updated on January 14, 2019

How the government shutdown affects your EBT / FoodShare (Food Stamp) benefits:

Three things to remember:

1. You will probably receive your February Food Stamp benefits early, around January 20th
2. You will **NOT** receive more benefits in February, so make sure to budget carefully
3. You can use your EBT card normally throughout the shutdown

What is happening to January and February Food Stamp Benefits?

Your January benefits should be deposited on the normal schedule. If you are having an issue with your January benefits, please contact your case worker or call Feed My People and speak to one of our FoodShare Navigators at 715-835-9415 ext. 106 to speak to Tami or ext. 108 to speak to Christine.

Your February benefits will be deposited early, around January 20th. These are not extra benefits, so **you will not receive another deposit in February**. Make sure to budget carefully.

Will I receive benefits in February?

No, you will not receive an additional deposit in February. You should treat your early deposit as your February deposit and budget carefully. Consider setting aside that benefit until later in February to make sure they last until your next deposit.

Can I use my EBT benefits during the shutdown?

Yes, you can use all EBT and Food Stamp benefits normally during the shutdown. You can still shop at the same stores and use any benefits that are currently on your card.

What if my recertification date is in January or February?

We recommend that you file your recertification or renewal paperwork as soon as possible to ensure that you get your early deposit.

When will I get my next benefit?

After your early deposit, we expect that your next benefit will be on your regular deposit date in March. However, that will only happen if the government shutdown ends by then.

What about other EBT benefits, like WIC and TANF?

WIC and TANF benefits should function normally in January and February. If you did not receive a benefit that you expected to receive, please call your case worker. However, if the government shutdown continues beyond February, the distribution of WIC and TANF benefits are uncertain.

How can I stay up-to-date?

Check online at: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/index.htm>

Or Call your local consortium to talk to an income maintenance worker:

Great Rivers Consortium includes these counties:

Eau Claire, Chippewa, Dunn, Barron, Burnett, Douglas, Pierce, Polk, St. Croix, and Washburn
1-888-283-0012

Western Consortium includes these counties:

Buffalo, Clark, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Trempealeau and Vernon
1-888-627-0430