



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Half of March SNAP Benefits to be Available to Ohio SNAP Households on February 22
*Ohio's foodbanks thank the State of Ohio for efforts to mitigate impact of federal shutdown***

“Due to the lengthy federal government shutdown earlier this year, the USDA issued February SNAP (food stamp) benefits early. While this administrative option was used to ensure that SNAP recipients would not miss February SNAP benefits entirely, it also created a long gap before the scheduled issuance of subsequent March SNAP benefits.

“The USDA asked states to develop mitigation plans to address this gap. Each state issues SNAP benefits on a different schedule. In Ohio, the gap would have been particularly pronounced, because the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services issues SNAP benefits anywhere from the 2nd to the 20th of each month. Most Ohio households would have experienced a gap of 50 to 60 days or more between February and March benefits if this schedule were not adjusted.

“Fortunately, the State of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services developed a plan to address that gap. All Ohio SNAP recipients will receive half of their March SNAP benefits on February 22. They will receive the remainder of their March SNAP benefits on their normal issuance date, anywhere from March 2nd to March 20th. SNAP issuance will then proceed as normal for April.

“We’re grateful that the State of Ohio took this step to help lessen the impact of the federal government shutdown on food insecure Ohioans, especially at additional administrative cost to the State. Ohio’s foodbanks stand ready as partners with the State to fill nutrition gaps of every kind for the 1 in 3 Ohioans who live in households poor enough to qualify for help from our hunger relief network.”

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About the Ohio Association of Foodbanks

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks is Ohio’s largest charitable response to hunger, representing Ohio’s 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,500 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. In SFY 2018, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 216 million pounds of food and grocery items. The association has also served as the home of The Ohio Benefit Bank since 2006. Follow the association on [Twitter](#), stay connected on [Facebook](#) and visit them on the web at www.ohiofoodbanks.org.

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