



STATE OF WASHINGTON

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October 28, 2025

TO: Angela Ramirez, Secretary
Department of Health and Humans Services

Derek Sandison, Director
Department of Agriculture

FROM: K.D. Chapman-See
Director

**SUBJECT: DIRECTIVE TO TRANSFER FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDING TO
EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has taken the position that the federal shutdown prevents Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits from being distributed. As a result, starting November 1, 2025, SNAP and the State's Food Assistance Program (FAP) related benefits will not be distributed to approximately 930,000 Washingtonians, of which 35% are children and 32% are elderly or people with a disability. Already stretched hunger relief organizations anticipate a dramatic increase in demand for food.

To address the anticipated need, the Washington Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is receiving requests from hunger relief organizations to increase funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP). As long as SNAP benefits are disrupted, the state cannot issue FAP benefits, per RCW 74.08A.120. As a result, we are directing the unused amounts provided to the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) - Economic Services Administration in Section 205 of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5167 for caseload funding for FAP to be transferred to WSDA on a weekly basis to increase EFAP support for hunger relief organizations.

An interagency agreement will be established between DSHS and WSDA to facilitate a weekly transfer of \$2,149,811, beginning November 3, 2025. The decision to fund subsequent weeks will be communicated through electronic mail by OFM.

The amounts received by WSDA are to increase funding for EFAP. The funding is passthrough to hunger relief organizations for direct food procurement and shall not include agency indirect or overhead.

Upon the reinstatement of SNAP benefits, the weekly transfers will cease. For now, please set the expiration of the interagency agreement for the end of State Fiscal Year 2026 due to the uncertain length of the federal shutdown. This will provide resilience for potential future federal SNAP benefit disruptions.

If you have questions, please contact Matt Hunter at (360) 529-7078 or Cynthia Hollimon at (360) 810-1979.

cc: Susan Brooks, Coordinator, Senate Ways & Means Committee
Dave Johnson, Coordinator, House Appropriations Committee
Shane Esquibel, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
David Frockt, Deputy Policy Director, Office of the Governor
Rich Pannkuk, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Social and Health Services
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