

## GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN FAQ

The federal government shutdown may affect some benefit programs. Our office remains open and will share updates as soon as we receive them.

**Q: *What is a government shutdown?***

**A:** A government shutdown happens when Congress does not agree on a budget to fund federal programs. When this happens, some programs may have to stop or delay payments until a new budget is approved.

**Q: *Will this shutdown affect my November SNAP benefits?***

**A:** Likely. The U.S. Department of Agriculture told us if the government shutdown continues, there will not be enough money to pay November SNAP benefits. This means November SNAP will not load to your Ohio Direction Card if the shutdown continues.

**Q: *Why are some people impacted sooner than others?***

**A:** In Ohio, SNAP benefits are issued on a staggered schedule between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Because of this, some households may not notice a change right away, especially those who usually receive their benefits later in the month.

**Q: *Can I still apply for SNAP?***

**A:** Yes. Clermont County Office of Public Assistance is open and accepting applications for benefits. We are still completing interviews, processing applications, and determining eligibility as usual. The State of Ohio has not directed counties to stop processing SNAP cases. However, we are waiting for more information from the federal government about future benefit issuance.

**Q: *If SNAP Payments stop, will I get them later?***

**A:** Yes. If your benefits are held from issuance, you should receive your missed benefits once the government is funded again.

**Q: *Will this impact benefits other than SNAP?***

**A:** Not at this time. OWF, Childcare, and Medicaid have no expected delays at this time.

### Need Help or Have Questions?

**Office of Public Assistance**

- ☎ Main Line, 513-732-7111
- ☎ Customer Care Line, 1-844-640-6446
- 🌐 [clermontpublicassistance.org](http://clermontpublicassistance.org)
- ☎ Ohio Direction Card, 1-866-386-3071
- 🌐 Self-Service Portal, [ssp.benefits.ohio.gov](http://ssp.benefits.ohio.gov)

**Clermont County Public Health- Nursing Division**

- ☎ Women, Infants & Children (WIC), 513-735-8400

**Clermont County Community Services, Inc.**

- ☎ PRC, HEAP, or Weatherization, 513-732-2277
- ☎ Emergency Shelter, 513-732-6464