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COURIER-POST

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SNAP disruptions could hurt grocers



The National Grocers Association urged Congress to reopen the government, saying SNAP fuels more than 389,000 American jobs and generates \$1.54 in economic activity for every dollar invested in the program. GETTY IMAGES

Ripple effect in economy will likely be immediate

Rachel Barber and Sarah D. WireUSA TODAY

Like the millions of Americans who rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, retailers are bracing for the effects of reduced or delayed funding to a program that typically injects billions of dollars into the U.S. economy each month.

The federal government spent \$99.8 billion on SNAP in fiscal year 2024, averaging more than \$8 billion per month. The Congressional Budget Office in January estimated outlays of more than \$100 billion for the program in 2025, though the actual spending this year is uncertain due to recent budget shifts and the ongoing government shutdown.

On Nov. 5, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced recipients would receive, at most, 65% of benefits in November after two federal judges ordered the department to use a contingency fund to provide the benefits. On Nov. 6, one of those federal judges ordered the Trump administration to fully fund the program for November by the following day.

There isn't a national distribution date for SNAP benefits, formerly called food stamps. Recipients can look to their state governments for guidance.

It's a confusing time for retailers. The Food Industry Association President and CEO Leslie Sarasin said retailers are awaiting guidance

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Trump appeals order to pay full SNAP aid

Judge says children could lose food assistance

Aysha Bagchi

USA TODAY

The Trump administration has appealed a federal judge's order that it was to provide full Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program food aid to states by Nov. 7.

The Justice Department filed a notice of appeal Nov. 6 – the same day federal Judge John McConnell in Rhode Island ordered the administration to make full payments of November SNAP benefits to states within a day. On Nov. 7, the DOJ asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit to halt McConnell's order by 4 p.m. ET.

"There is no lawful basis for an order that directs [the U.S. Department of Agriculture] to somehow find \$4 billion in the metaphorical couch cushions," the administration said in its request.

McConnell and federal officials have been ping-ponging for several days over how much, if anything, to pay of the November aid received by close to 42 million Americans.

The Trump administration initially said it would not tap contingency funds to make SNAP payments during the federal government shutdown. Then, after McConnell instructed the administration to do so, federal officials said recipients would get a maximum of 65% of the typical benefit, USA TODAY previously reported.

On Nov. 6, McConnell told the administration to make the full November benefit available using a combination of contingency funds and other funds he said were available during the federal government shutdown.

The Trump administration said in a court filing that Congress meant for those other funds to be used for child nutrition programs, which it said would face "an unprecedented and significant shortfall" if the money were

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Travelers brace for worse to come as more flights get disrupted

People wait in a security line inside Detroit Metro Airport in Romulus, Michigan,

on Nov. 6. The airport is one of 40 expected to see a gradual reduction in flight

USA TODAY

Some travelers heckled Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport as he stopped Nov. 7 to talk with travelers and Transportation Security Administration workers after reducing flight operations by 4% at 40 major U.S. airports.

They yelled at Duffy to get people back to work and push harder for an end to the government shutdown.

In response to criticism, the secretary called on Democrats to end the ongoing government shutdown and defended the decision to cut flights, which he has said is about safety, not politics.

"We've relied on the experts at the FAA on the safety team to give us this advice," he said. "It's the right decision." Pressed on CBS News to reveal more

about the safety data from the Federal Aviation Administration, Duffy said he would share more with Congress and airlines "later."

operations. ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Travelers are bracing for worse to

come, with many Americans on edge over the potential for disruptions as the busy holiday travel season draws near. Flight operations reductions will ramp up to 6% on Nov. 9 and to 10% over a week, Duffy said. He told Breitbart News flights will be cut further if the shutdown continues, as much as 15%.

The list of airports includes those serving Atlanta; Boston; Chicago; Denver; Dallas; Detroit; New York City; Honolulu; Las Vegas; Los Angeles; and Washington, DC. Delta Air Lines, which operates about 5,000 flights per day, canceled roughly 170 flights for Nov. 7.

At O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Scott Wolf and Madeleine Nicholson were ready to drive to New York if necessary: Wolf's sister is getting married.

"He's giving a speech, we're both walking in the wedding," said Nichol-

But Terminal 3 appeared calm the morning of Nov. 7, and the couple felt

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