

Important Update

Virginia Emergency Nutrition Assistant (VENA) Program



The federal government has been shut down since October 1, 2025. Because of this, the U.S. Department of Agriculture told Virginia that it can't send out November SNAP benefits right now. On October 23, 2025, Governor Youngkin declared a State of Emergency and provided state funds to launch the Virginia Emergency Nutrition Assistance (VENA) program, a temporary program meant to fill the gap.

- Existing SNAP clients will receive a food benefit the week of November 3rd.
- Benefits will be loaded onto your existing EBT card.
- Distribution will follow a weekly schedule based on your usual SNAP issuance date. This emergency assistance will continue on a week-by-week basis through November. When the shutdown ends and federal SNAP funding becomes available, VENA will end.

If you normally receive SNAP on the 1st

🔄 You'll receive VENA benefits on Mondays


If you normally receive SNAP on the 4th

🔄 You'll receive VENA benefits on Wednesdays

If you normally receive SNAP on the 7th

🔄 You'll receive VENA benefits on Fridays

 17 First payment starts Monday, November 3rd.

 How much will you receive? You will receive 1/4 of your usual monthly SNAP amount each week.

➡ For example: If you typically receive \$400/month, you will receive \$100/week.

Need Help Finding Food?

- Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Food Finder: <https://foodfinder.brafb.org>
- 211 Virginia: Call 2-1-1, text `CONNECT` to 247211, or search or chat online at: <https://211virginia.org>
- Food Resource Guide: <https://shorturl.at/0dDSB>