

Supporting Student access to Food Assistance Benefits

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) was instructed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to temporarily pause the issuance of November 2025 SNAP benefits due to the ongoing federal government funding lapse. This situation continues to evolve at both the federal and state levels as Michigan leaders explore options to mitigate the impact on residents. The resources and strategies outlined, offer colleges ongoing ways to support students facing food insecurity, connect them to state benefits, and strengthen campus response systems: Read the official MDHHS statement

What This Means for Colleges

Students who rely on SNAP may experience immediate food insecurity beginning Nov. 1. Colleges can help by connecting students to local food supports, benefit navigation, and emergency aid.

Responsive Campus Actions

- Share Michigan 2-1-1 across campus (email, social, LMS).
- Post or email local pantry hours and mobile-food schedules.
- Extend student-resource-center hours during the pause.
- Equip advising, financial-aid, and success-coach staff with links below.
- · Track student requests to inform future basic-needs planning.

Resource Directory

- 1 | Benefit & Case Status
 - MI Bridges: Check or manage SNAP benefits → <u>newmibridges.michigan.gov</u>
 - MDHHS Offices: Contact your local office for case questions \rightarrow Office Locator
- 2 | Find Food Today
 - Michigan 2-1-1: Call 2-1-1 or visit michigan211.org for free, confidential help
 - Food Bank Council of Michigan: Locate your regional food bank → <u>fbcmich.org</u>
- 3 | Planning & Training for Colleges
 - <u>ALICE Data (Michigan)</u>: County-level cost-of-living data to target basic-needs efforts.
 - MCCA ALICE Inquiry Guide: Apply ALICE insights to campus strategy.
 - Professional Learning Space: Access the Student Basic Needs module for best practices.

Sample Message to Share with Students

Need Food Support?

If your SNAP benefits are delayed, you are not alone.

- Find food today, Call 2-1-1 or visit: michigan211.org
- Check your benefits in your MI Bridges portal: <u>NewMiBridges.Michigan.Gov</u>

Contact your local MDHHS office for questions: MDHHS County Offices