



Addressing Urgent Hunger Needs

Colorado Counties Incorporated Conversation
10.17.2025



COLORADO
Department of Human Services



Agenda

Part I

- Purpose of this community
- Data: SNAP in Colorado & Food Resources
- Food Pantry & Food Bank Partner Conversation
- Organizing for Action

Part II

- Data: SNAP in Colorado & Food Resources
- Hunger Community Conversation
- Key Messaging for Clients - Organizing for Action

Purpose of this community



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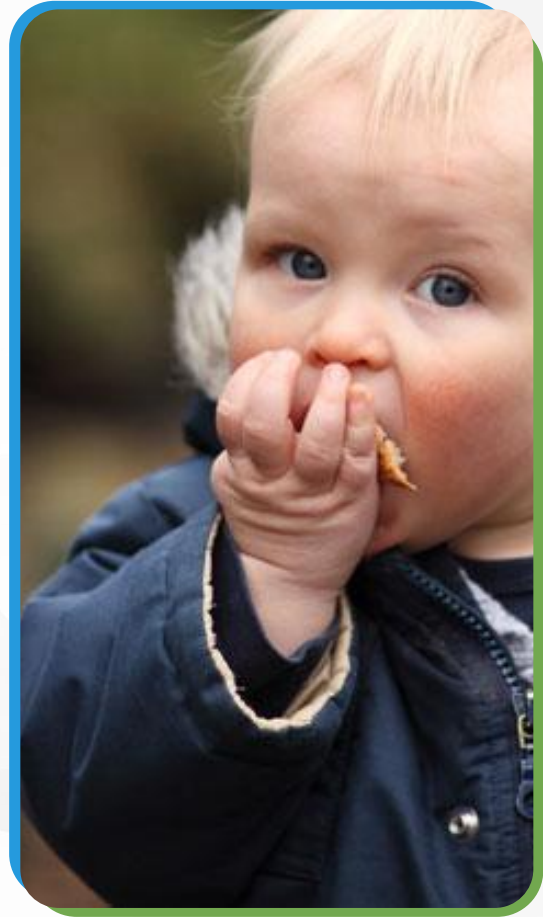
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SNAP Client Data & Nov Impact

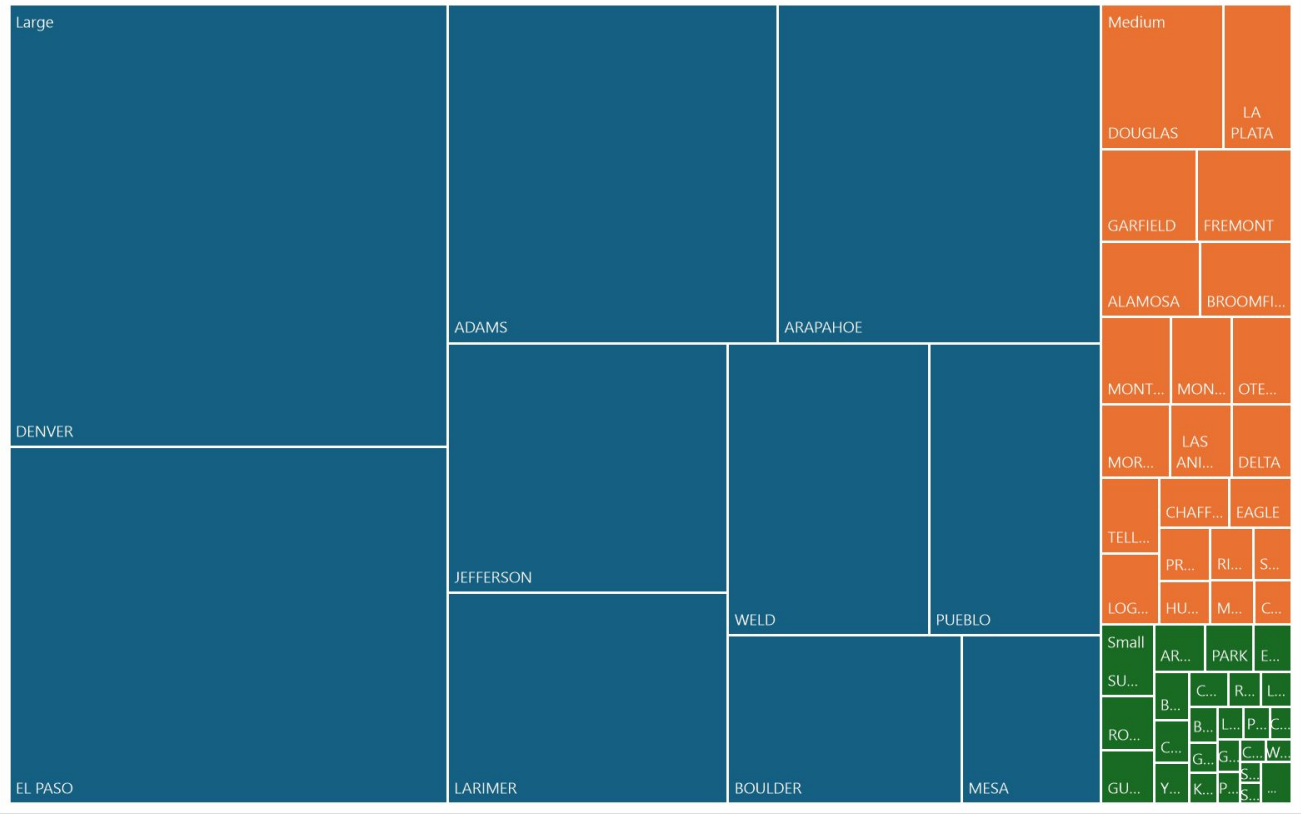
SNAP caseload

(current as of June 2025)

- 334,590 cases (households)
- 614,911 individuals
 - 50% are children, 10% elderly, and 15% with disabilities
- No eligibility for undocumented aliens
- \$123M in benefits issued monthly
- \$1.48B in benefits issued yearly
- Current and historically, <1% of issuance is due to fraud (intentional program violations by participants)



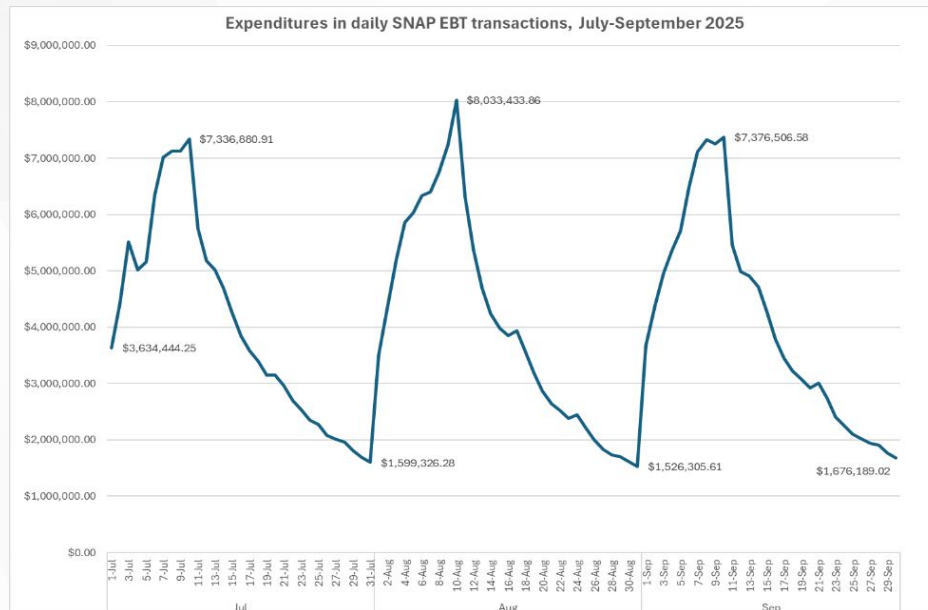
Share of SNAP caseload by county





Spending trends

- On average, households redeemed 79.5% of their benefits within two weeks and 94.4% by the end of the benefit month.
- At the end of the benefit month, an average of 40.2% of households had a balance of less than \$1. (source: FNS, 2022)



What are the impacts of the Nov disruption?

Client Impact Timeline:

- New SNAP applicants after **October 15** will get their October benefits only for now.
- Ongoing SNAP households (those already receiving benefits) will not receive their November benefits on the usual schedule (the 1st-10th of the month). Notices will go out to all affected households on **October 21** explaining the situation.
- Benefits will resume once the federal shutdown ends, but it is unknown at this time when November benefits will be issued, if at all, during the month. We do not know if it will be the full amount or a prorated amount.
Notice date TBD

What this means for counties & partners:

- Counties are expecting increased calls, walk-ins and frustration from clients who rely on these benefits to buy food. Information and on-hand food for counties to quickly connect people will be critical.
- Staff may need to spend additional time meeting with clients through this difficult time. *This will impact administrative costs on county budgets. Would mobilizing volunteers be beneficial to counties to answer questions? Would commodity boxes on hand be beneficial for clients in high/immediate need?*
- Food banks and pantries will see an increase in demand and need for critical food benefits. We need to know how to support you!

What are other states doing?

- MA Governor is taking similar convening efforts, standing up a Anti-Hunger Task Force
- Utah advocates are pushing for an extension in implementing HR1 Changes
- Minnesota has stopped approving new applications due to concerns of benefit issuance and funding. Other states likely to follow suit

What we heard from Food Banks and Food Pantries

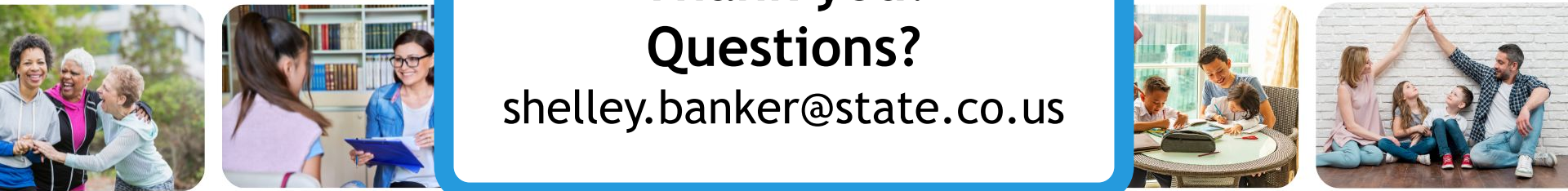
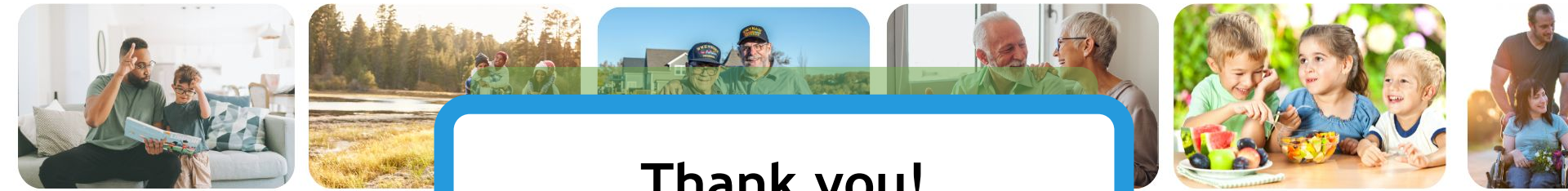
- “We have as many in a day coming that we were traditionally seeing in a week”
- “There is not enough food for people to take what they really need”. In turn Folks will be going to multiple places
- Operating in the highest need in 10 years
- Support from community is coming together. Volunteers are not needed right now

Marketing and Communications + Publicity

- Single call to action: Financial cash funds to meet the demand. Important to purchase food at scale (versus donations) and to quickly to get food purchased
- Media, marketing, messages to clients to find food and community
- Additional - data - zip code to better understand need

Key messaging for clients today

- The federal government shutdown is currently impacting SNAP. If it doesn't open before Oct. 21, clients will receive notices that lets them know about the delay and where to get up-to-date information
- State & county offices will continue processing applications and recertifications, but the issuance of future benefits depends on Congressional action to resume federal appropriations in November and beyond.
- CDHS and county offices are continuing to process all new applications and recertifications to ensure that all eligible clients are ready to receive benefits once funding is secured.
- SNAP benefits will not be issued for November 2025 until additional information is received from the federal government. This is a change impacting all SNAP households and can not be appealed.
- If clients need more food resources during the government shutdown, we encourage them to reach out to their local food banks or community agencies in your area.
 - To find these resources in your area, please contact:
 - Colorado 211: Dial 2-1-1 or (866)760-5489 or visit <https://www.211colorado.org>
 - Feeding Colorado Resources at www.feedingcolorado.org/find-food or info@feedingcolorado.org
- When the shutdown ends, we'll know more about the future of SNAP benefits.
- More up-to-date information can be found on the Colorado PEAK website: <https://co.gov/peak>



Thank you!
Questions?
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