



| Current Program<br>SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)                                                 | New Program<br>VENA (Virginia Emergency Nutrition Assistance)                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Federally funded                                                                                                    | State funded                                                                                                                                                                              |
| All eligible recipients both existing and new recipients                                                            | Existing recipients initially<br>New November recipients may not receive benefits until December                                                                                          |
| Disbursement: Full allotment one time per month<br><br>Example: \$400 received November 1, November 4 or November 7 | Disbursement: 25% allotment one time per week beginning November 3, November 5, November 7<br><br>Example:               \$100- Week 1<br>\$100- Week 2<br>\$100- Week 3<br>\$100- Week 4 |
| Funds uploaded to existing EBT card                                                                                 | Funds uploaded to existing EBT card                                                                                                                                                       |

#### **How long will VENA last?**

At this time, the state is prepared to cover the program through the month of November. Information about December will not be discussed until later in November if shut down continues.

#### **What happens if the shut- down ends the second week of November?**

VENA will end when the government re-opens and clients resume receipt of traditional SNAP benefits and should receive a full or partial SNAP allotment.

#### **Will individuals be able to use existing EBT balances?**

Yes. Individuals are encouraged to check their balances prior to going shopping. VENA funds will be added to existing SNAP balances, but SNAP balances must be used first.

#### **Are the rules for purchasing food using VENA funds the same as SNAP?**

Yes. There are no changes to program rules.

#### **Will this count as income?**

No. This is a supplement and will not be counted as income.

#### **How will information be communicated to the public?**

Virginia Department of Social Services is preparing a communication toolkit for localities to use for consistent messaging. Messaging may include text and email options for participants.