



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