



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Special Broadcast Message from Commissioner Kevin Dehmer

Special Broadcast – October 31, 2025

Special Broadcast

Memos are posted on the [DOE Broadcast webpage](#).

Commissioner's Note:

Because of the ongoing federal government shutdown, there is uncertainty about the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** benefits and other supports. Since many schools will be closed for some or all of next week, free school meals may not be accessible. Please review and share State resources with families who may need help.

Thank you for all you do to support students and families and to make sure they have access to the help they need.

Target Audience: Local Educational Agency Leads, Directors of Nonpublic Schools, Principals, School Nurses, Staff Involved with Community Outreach, Students, Guardians, and Parents

Food Assistance Information and Links

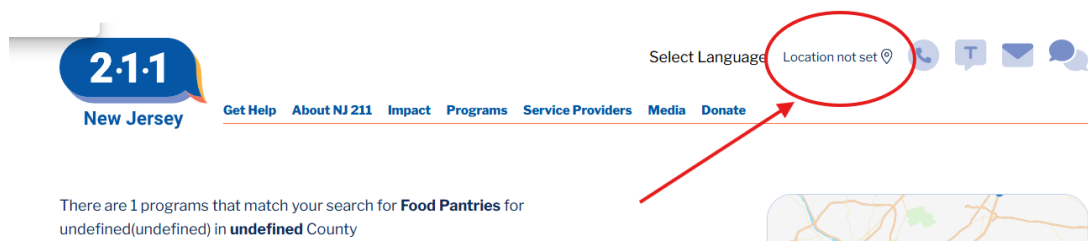
[New Jersey Basic Needs Information Hub: Get Food This Week](#)

Food pantries and soup kitchens are available for anyone who needs quick access to food—including students and their families. This resource includes general information about food pantries, a **county-by-county list**, and **four easy steps** for visiting one.

[NJ211 Hotline Provides Local Resources to Help Residents with Food, Housing, Crisis, and Health](#)

- [NJ211 Food Pantry Search](#)

To find food pantries near you, **click this link** and **enter your ZIP code** in the search bar at the top right corner of the page (see image below).



[New Jersey's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#)

This situation continues to change, so **SNAP food assistance recipients** should **check their accounts at NJFamiliesFirst.com**; call **800-997-3333**; and visit **njsnap.gov** for updates.



IMPORTANT UPDATE

IF YOU GET SNAP FOOD ASSISTANCE BENEFITS



New Jersey was notified by the federal government that **November SNAP benefits will not be available on time if the federal government shutdown continues.**

SNAP benefits loaded onto Families First EBT cards before October 31 will be available for use after November 1.

We encourage SNAP food assistance recipients to check their account at **NJFamiliesFirst.com** or by calling **800 997-3333** before going to the grocery store after November 1. If there are SNAP benefits in your NJ FamiliesFirst account, they are available for you to use.

Continue to visit **njsnap.gov** for updates.



Additional Resources:

- [Office of the Food Security Advocate: SNAP Benefits and Food Assistance](#)
- [Community Food Bank of New Jersey](#)