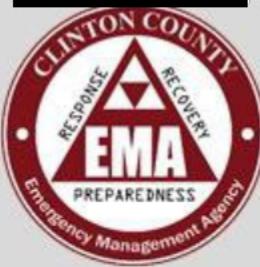


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Bullet Background Paper – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for Senior Elected Official Familiarization
SNAP Disruption Forecast / November 2025

NOTICE: This document contains [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] . D
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Purpose

- Provide a concise assessment of potential community stability and safety impacts resulting from a federal SNAP funding interruption beginning 1 November 2025, coinciding with an extended federal government shutdown.
- Summarize threat indicators, anticipated behaviors, and operational considerations for local leadership and response partners.
- Support decision-making, public messaging, and interdepartmental coordination during a potential period of economic stress and social volatility.

National Context

- **SNAP** (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program): Federal program that provides food assistance to income-eligible households. Benefits are issued monthly on an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card that functions like a debit card and is used to purchase eligible food items at participating stores and approved online retailers. States determine eligibility using income and household-size criteria. SNAP replaced older "food-stamp" coupons, reducing stigma and improving security in benefit delivery.
- **EBT** (Electronic Benefits Transfer): The secure, debit-style card system used nationwide to distribute SNAP and other government benefits. Funds are automatically loaded each month and accessed at checkout like a standard payment card. This system ensures predictable, private access to nutritional assistance and supports stable participation by both beneficiaries and retailers.
- Ongoing federal shutdown has suspended appropriations for November SNAP issuance; contingency reserves are depleted.
- National and regional media outlets continue to air *reports* of planned protests and flash mob style smash and grab type events in the coming weeks, reinforcing public anxiety.
- Online discussions increasingly feature calls to "take what you're owed," raising concern that digital mobilization could influence local behavior even in rural areas.

Local Context (Clinton County, Ohio)

- Approximately 5,000 – 6,000 residents rely on SNAP benefits each month, concentrated in Wilmington, Sabina, and Blanchester ZIP codes.

- Major grocery anchors include Kroger, ALDI, and Walmart (Wilmington); IGA (Sabina); and Kroger (Blanchester)—all serving as essential food-access nodes.
- Numerous convenience stores throughout the county operate late hours with limited staffing, creating additional risk points.
- Public tone remains calm but cautious; misinformation about “store shutdowns” and “benefit cancellation” continues to circulate online.

Timeline & Risk Outlook

- Pre-Event (25 – 31 Oct): Final SNAP deposits for October are expected to be spent before the start of November, which may drive a wave of panic shopping as recipients seek to use remaining balances. Grocery stores could see surge conditions resembling the early-pandemic supply rush of 2020, with shelf depletion in staple categories (toilet paper, bread, milk, meat, canned goods). [REDACTED]
- Day 1 (Sat 1 Nov): With no new benefits issued, early frustration may appear at registers or service desks as cards decline. Afternoon and evening hours carry higher risk of agitation, particularly at major grocers and fuel-adjacent convenience stores. Risk of opportunistic theft increases after dark as desperation and confusion converge. [REDACTED].
- Day 2 (Sun 2 Nov): National media coverage of unrest elsewhere could inspire copycat or solidarity actions, even in low-income rural settings. Local stores may remain calm but experience spillover stress from perception rather than direct need. [REDACTED].
- Day 3 (Mon 3 Nov): As normal workweek patterns resume, tension may recede slightly but information volatility remains high; unverified stories of “free food” or “store closures” could circulate online. [REDACTED]
- Day 4 (Tue 4 Nov – Election Day): National attention divided between voting activity and the ongoing federal shutdown. [REDACTED]

Lifeline Impact Summary

- Safety & Security: [REDACTED].
- Food/Hydration/Shelter: [REDACTED] for food-access stability; pantries and NGOs may face surge demand; others Low.
- Health & Medical: Slight-Marginal risk for stress-related or chronic-care impacts; EMS and hospitals stable.
- Water Systems: Low risk; service or quality issues not expected.
- Energy: [REDACTED]
- Communications: Marginal risk for misinformation volume; infrastructure stable.
- Transportation: Low risk; minor congestion near retail corridors.
- Hazardous Materials: Low risk; routine operations; [REDACTED]

Preparedness and Mitigation Measures

- Enhanced Information Exchange: Broaden situational reporting beyond routine channels to capture early warning signs, community stress, and rumor activity.
- Coordinated Messaging: Unify public communication among officials and community leaders to maintain consistency, counter misinformation, and reinforce calm.
- Public Resource Awareness: Use available communication channels (county website, CCEA alerts, social media, and PIO coordination) to direct residents to existing local food banks, assistance programs, and nonprofit organizations already doing good work. Emphasize that help is available and there is no need to stockpile or panic.
- FOODHELP Keyword Activation: The keyword "FOODHELP" has been established as a contingency opt-in system. Residents may text "FOODHELP" to 69310 to receive verified updates from Clinton County-based organizations on food pantries, meal programs, or short-term assistance opportunities as information becomes available.
- Retail Engagement: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].
- Public Safety Alignment: [REDACTED]
- Visible Presence & Reassurance: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- Continuity & After-Action: Verify communications redundancy; document response observations for future improvement.

Mitigation Measures

- Local instability remains possible if perception deteriorates, even absent direct triggers.
- Consistent, fact-based communication and a coordinated enforcement posture will be essential to maintain public trust.
- Sustained calm messaging, interdepartmental coordination, and visibility through the 96-hour watch window offer the best protection for community stability.