

Temporary State-Funded Benefit

November 2025

Due to the federal government shutdown, SNAP (3SquaresVT) benefits have been delayed until further notice. In response to this, the State of Vermont is issuing a one-time, temporary, state-funded benefit to cover the first 15 days of November. If the federal government shutdown ends or federal 3SquaresVT benefits can be issued before this program is operationalized, the state-funded benefit will not be issued.

Eligibility staff are not responsible for calculating and issuing this benefit. ACCESS programming was put into place to automatically calculate and issue these benefits. The purpose of this document is to share information about the state-funded benefit to support staff in customer interactions and fair hearing requests.

Basic information:

Eligibility:

- Households that meet the following criteria are eligible for the state-funded benefit:
 - Applied for 3SVT on or before 12:30 PM on 11/6/25, *and*
 - were active on 3SVT as of 12:30 PM on 11/6/25.
- Households that were inactive as of 12:30 PM on 11/6/25 are *not* eligible for the state-funded benefit. Inactive households include:
 - Households with an effective closure date of 10/31/25 or earlier.
 - Households that are pending.
 - Households that are denied.
 - Households that did not apply for 3SVT.
- Households that are active on 3SVT but receiving a \$0 benefit for November are not eligible for a state-funded benefit.
- Eligibility chart:

<u>Eligibility Chart</u>			
Application Date	Approval Date	Application status at 5:00 PM on 11/5/25	Are they eligible?
Prior to 12:30 PM on 11/6/25	Prior to 12:30 PM on 11/6/25	Active	Yes
Prior to 12:30 PM on 11/6/25	After 12:30 PM on 11/6/25	Pending	No
After 12:30 PM on 11/6/25	After 12:30 PM on 11/6/25	N/A	No

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Eligibility Process:

- There is no application for this benefit.
- Eligibility for the benefit is determined based upon a household's 3SVT status as of 12:30 PM on 11/6/25.
- A household that did not receive a state-funded benefit cannot apply to receive it.

Benefit Calculation:

- The benefit amount will be equal to half of the 3SVT allotment that was scheduled to be issued for November as of 11/6/25 at 12:30 PM.
 - Example: if a household is eligible for a November 3SVT benefit of \$198, they will receive a one-time state funded benefit of \$99.
- For households that are approved for a prorated November benefit, the benefit amount will be equal to half of the prorated amount.
- The benefit amount will be rounded up to the nearest whole dollar.
- If there is a 3SquaresVT recoupment on the case, the state-funded benefit amount is determined prior to the recoupment being deducted.
 - Example: A household with a monthly 3SquaresVT benefit of \$512 and a \$51 recoupment each month receives a \$461 3SVT benefit each month. This household will receive a state-funded benefit of \$256 ($\$512 \div 2$).

Benefit Issuance:

- The benefit will be automatically issued to eligible households by 11/7/25.
- The benefits will be issued via EBT food, EBT cash, and direct deposit.
- Each household will receive their benefit in the same manner that their November 3SVT benefit would have been issued.

Noticing:

- A notice will be sent to each eligible household stating their benefit amount and the date it will be received by.
- The notice will not be in the notice server.

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Where to find the information in ACCESS:

- Do not share a benefit amount with a household until the benefit has been issued and an amount is visible in INQD.
- The benefit amount is determined based off the November eligibility as of November 6th at 12:30 PM:

```
10/31/25 12:14      FS ELIGIBILITY      PROCESSED: 10 10 2025 06:59 ASP2VA0
REPORTING PERIOD: 11 25      LAST PROCESSED: 10 29 2025 VER: 2 OF 2
FS ELIGIBILITY RESULT:      ELIGIBLE      METHOD: COMPUTED      EBT FOOD
FS ENTITLEMENT AMOUNT:      144.00      3SNP STATUS: Y
FS RECOUPMENT AMOUNT:
FS BENEFIT LESS RECOUPMENT: 144.00
FS PAYMENT SCHEDULE
AMOUNT      RECO      DATE
AMOUNT SCHEDULED BASED ON THIS ENTITLEMENT: 144.00      11 01 25
AMOUNT SCHEDULED PREVIOUS ACTION:
MONTH-TO-DATE AMOUNT PAID:
REPLACEMENTS PAID :
ACTION REQUIRED      CLOSURE-REVIEW DATE: 12 31 2026
APPROVAL CODE:      OVERNIGHT ISSUANCE AMT: 00000
USER: X91 FNX: ELIG MODE: D RPTGRP:      PERIOD: 11 25 COMMAND:
DO: Z IMS: D1D RPTGRP NAME:      PANEL: 1      3
```

- ELIG/D/FS in 11/25 shows the “amount scheduled based on this entitlement”. Divide this in half and round up to the nearest whole dollar.
 - $\$144 \div 2 = \72.00
- ELIG/D/FS in 11/25 shows how the benefit will be issued (EBT food, EBT cash, direct deposit).
 - For this case, the state-funded benefit will be issued as EBT Food
- The state-funded benefit will show in INQD as follows:

```
10/31/25 12:11      ASPSIB
*** M O N Y      INQUIRY - DISBURSEMENT HISTORY ***
For SSN:
Name:      Issued from: 10/25 - 12/26
S**Tran Nbr* Issued *Prog*CC*S*Check No* Amount *Type* From - To *E*A*Wrk
- 25291      ADMN S T EBT FOOD 72.00 FSRC 11/01/25-11/15/25 D1D
```

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Impact to ongoing 3SVT benefits and other ESD programs:

- The state-funded benefit is excluded income for 3SVT, Reach Up, Fuel, Essential Person, and General Assistance.
- Resource: [Countable and Non Countable Income Chart](#)

Talking points with customers:

- October and prior balances on EBT cards remain available for use at authorized retailers.
- Customers can check their EBT card balance online at: www.ebtedge.com or by calling 1-800-914-8605.
- Automated phone calls will be issued to 3SVT households to explain the state-funded partial benefit issuances.
- Approved script:

The State of Vermont has approved a temporary State-funded benefit to ensure Vermonters can access food during the federal shutdown. A state-funded benefit equal to 50% of your November 3SquaresVT benefit as of November 6th will be loaded onto your EBT card or, if you are a 3SquaresVT cash-out household with direct deposit, directly deposited into your bank account on or before November 7.

You can continue to use your October or prior balances in the meantime. You can check your EBT card balance online at www.ebtedge.com or by calling 1-800-914-8605

The state has provided additional funding to some food shelves for the first week of November to make more food available. If you are in need of food assistance, you can find a list of food shelves on: vermont211.org or by calling 211.

We are now using automated phone calls and text messages to share important updates with 3SquaresVT clients. If you received one of these messages, please know it was official communication from the Vermont Department for Children and Families and not part of a scam.