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Talking Points: SNAP Funding Crisis

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1. The administration is choosing to let families go hungry. Its refusal to use available funds for November SNAP benefits is a deliberate policy decision, not an inevitability. Families who rely on SNAP for food should not be caught in political gridlock.
2. This decision will affect 42 million Americans, including 10 million Latinos, who rely on SNAP to help feed their families. SNAP has never before lapsed during a government shutdown. Allowing that to happen now would put millions at risk of hunger.
3. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has the authority and resources to act. Under Section 2257 of Title 7, the department can use its $5 billion contingency fund, as it did for WIC in October, to ensure November benefits are delivered.
4. Latino families will be hit hardest. They make up 16 percent of SNAP recipients, or about 10 million people. One in five Latino households already experiences food insecurity, and losing November benefits would deepen hunger and hardship.
5. This crisis follows historic cuts to SNAP made earlier this year through the federal budget law enacted under the Trump administration (H.R. 1), which reduced the program by nearly $200 billion. As a result, 20 million families now receive less help buying groceries, with the deepest cuts hitting children and working families.
6. SNAP strengthens families and the economy. Each month of SNAP spending supports more than 100,000 jobs, generates $12 billion in economic activity, and provides $200 million in farm revenue. The program helps keep local economies stable during hard times.
7. SNAP is about more than food. It represents health, dignity, and opportunity for millions of Americans. The administration should use its legal authority to keep the program running and avoid putting families at risk of hunger.