



**Press Release**  
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Alexis Whitham  
Director of Communications, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless  
303-312-9642, [alexis.whitham@coloradocoalition.org](mailto:alexis.whitham@coloradocoalition.org)

Cathy Alderman  
Chief Communications and Public Policy Officer, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless  
303-319-9155, [cathy.alderman@coloradocoalition.org](mailto:cathy.alderman@coloradocoalition.org)

**52,000 Unhoused Coloradans Likely Hardest Hit by SNAP Benefit Delays and Uncertainty**

One in 10 Coloradans rely on Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, but the impact of recent program changes on those experiencing or at risk of homelessness are particularly devastating according to experts at the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH or the Coalition), a housing, healthcare, and advocacy organization with over 40 years of experience in the sector.

[Colorado government officials](#), community leaders, and organizations are attempting to fill the gap through increased funding for food banks and pantries and extensions of food access through the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. However, these solutions are designed to primarily benefit housed SNAP recipients. Those living unsheltered on the streets, in cars, in shelters, and in transitional housing or hotels do not have the means to create nutritious hot meals from the primarily raw ingredients provided at food pantries. Unhoused individuals also struggle with selecting and carrying large quantities of food for the week and are more likely to survive meal-to-meal.

November SNAP payments have already been delayed and the Trump administration has [waffled just today](#) on whether beneficiaries will receive just 50% of the usual amount or nothing at all until the government shutdown, now on day 35, ends.

In contrast to food banks and pantries, SNAP benefits can be used to purchase prepared and heated foods, a staple for those without stable housing and particularly vital for the approximately 26% of people experiencing homelessness in Colorado who are surviving unsheltered on the streets. The average \$186 per individual per month, or \$6.11 per day, is a lifeline for single-serving meals for those experiencing homelessness.

An internal assessment by the Coalition evaluation department estimates that at a minimum, 50% of Coalition's nearly 20,000 yearly clients receive SNAP benefits.

"People experiencing or at risk of homelessness are already struggling to afford housing and healthcare in the face of rising prices and cuts to federal programs" stated Cathy Alderman, Chief Communications and Public Policy Officer for the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. Alderman continued, "With delayed, reduced, and

potentially all-together missing SNAP payments, those already struggling are likely to either forgo eating or be forced to spend limited resources on food instead of housing and healthcare, which will likely lead to more homelessness.”

The Coalition is providing resource lists, including hot food locations, to clients and case managers, and keeping an updated list available for all at <https://www.coloradocoalition.org/CCH-resources>. Coalition staff and [community advocates](#) continue to reach out to our members of Congress and the Federal Administration to encourage negotiation to end the shut-down and provide people with the resources they need to survive. CCH will be hosting a virtual [Education Series Session](#) on Hunger & Food Injustice on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> and accepts donations at [coloradocoalition.org/donate](https://coloradocoalition.org/donate).

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**About Colorado Coalition for the Homeless:**

The mission of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless is to work collaboratively toward the prevention of homelessness and the creation of lasting solutions for people experiencing and at-risk of homelessness throughout Colorado. The Coalition advocates for and provides a continuum of housing and a variety of services to improve the health, well-being and stability of those it serves. Since its founding, the organization has earned state and national recognition for its integrated healthcare, housing and service programs. The Coalition’s comprehensive approach addresses the causes of homelessness, as well as the consequences, offering critical assistance to nearly 20,000 individuals and families each year. Learn more at [coloradocoalition.org](https://coloradocoalition.org).