

# RESOURCES FOR HAWAI'I RESIDENTS

*Food, Housing, and Bills Relief for Residents Impacted by the Federal Government Shutdown*



## State Response to November 1 SNAP Benefits Suspension:

- ▶ **Hawai'i Emergency Food Benefit** provides a one-time credit to current SNAP beneficiaries on their EBT card to help cover the loss of November SNAP benefits.
- ▶ **Hawai'i Relief Program** provides low-income families with children assistance with rent/mortgage and utilities for up to 4 months.
- ▶ State provides **Hawai'i Foodbank** \$2,000,000 to increase food distribution across the State.

All information is available at <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/>

## Hawai'i Emergency Food Benefit

The Hawai'i Emergency Food Benefit provides a **one-time credit of \$250 per person** for current SNAP beneficiaries, regardless of their current benefit level. The benefit is expected to be put on beneficiaries' EBT card by mid-November. Used for food purchases only. This is funded through \$28,567,600 in general funds for households without children and \$13,675,900 in TANF funds for households with a child.

## FAQ: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- The SNAP office remains **open** and is **processing applications, recertifications and ongoing cases**. Payments will not be issued until the suspension is lifted.
- Please show up for any **scheduled SNAP interview** and continue to provide requested documentation.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food benefits are suspended starting November 1, 2025, due to the federal government shutdown.**

## Hawai'i Relief Program (Rental & Utility Bills Assistance)

This new program provides non-recurring short-term housing and utility payments to help eligible families facing financial hardship due to events such as job loss, involuntary loss of employment, natural disaster, displacement from a damaged home, or reduced income.

## Eligible families may receive help with the following:

- One-time housing deposit, actual cost up to a maximum of \$6,000.
- Housing payments, actual cost up to the maximum of \$6,000, for up to four months.
- One-time utility deposit, actual cost up to \$3,000 for each utility source (electricity, water, gas).
- Utility payments, actual cost up to the maximum of \$2,000, for up to four months.
- Funds will be paid directly to your utility provider, landlord, or lender and will not be counted as income when determining eligibility for other benefits.



## Hawai'i Relief Program FAQs:

<https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/hawaii-relief-program-faqs-support-for-housing-and-utility-payments/>

## Hawai'i Relief Program Eligibility Requirements

### Eligibility Requirements for the Hawai'i Relief Program

- The household includes an adult relative and a dependent child under 18, or a pregnant woman without a dependent child in her third trimester.
- All members are Hawai'i residents.
- At least one member is a U.S. citizen, qualified non-citizen, or COFA resident lawfully living in Hawai'i.
- The household's gross income is below program eligibility limits.
- The family is experiencing financial hardship or crisis.
- No member has received duplicate housing or utility assistance through the Hawai'i Relief program.



| Family Size | Annual Income Limit | Monthly Income Limit | Family Size                | Annual Income Limit | Monthly Income Limit |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1           | \$53,970            | \$4,497              | 7                          | \$167,910           | \$13,992             |
| 2           | \$72,960            | \$6,080              | 8                          | \$186,900           | \$15,575             |
| 3           | \$91,950            | \$7,662              | 9                          | \$205,890           | \$17,157             |
| 4           | \$110,940           | \$9,245              | 10                         | \$224,880           | \$18,740             |
| 5           | \$129,930           | \$10,827             | For each additional family | \$18,990            | \$1,582              |
| 6           | \$148,920           | \$12,410             |                            |                     |                      |

**Not receiving pay for a federal job and the loss of SNAP benefits are both considered qualifying events. Individuals who are not being paid for their federal job must report their current actual income.**

***To be eligible, the family's total gross income must be at or under 300% of the 2025 Hawai'i Federal Poverty level for the applicable family size.***

## Apply for the Hawai'i Relief Program

### Catholic Charities Hawai'i - For residents on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Hawai'i Island

- Telephone: 808-521-4357, press "1" for financial assistance, and press "1" again for the HRP Team.
- Email: [hrp.help@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:hrp.help@catholiccharitieshawaii.org)
- Website and Online Application: <https://www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org/state-housing-and-utility-program-hup/>



### Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. - For residents on Maui, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i

- Telephone: 808-243-4357
- Email: [Housing.utility@meoinc.org](mailto:Housing.utility@meoinc.org)
- Website: <https://www.meoinc.org/>



### Why is the Hawai'i Relief Program limited to families with a child?

The \$100 million in funding comes from the federal Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) reserve fund, which by law can only be used for households with a child under 18. If your household does not include a child, please visit [humanservices.hawaii.gov](http://humanservices.hawaii.gov) for other available programs.

## Free School Meals for Impacted Families

The Department of Education encourages families impacted by the federal government shutdown to sign up for free school meals. If your pay has been suspended, enter \$0 income.

Sign up here: <https://secure.ezmealapp.com/ApplicationScreen.aspx> ✨



## State Allocates \$2 Million in Funding for Foodbank Outreach in Hawai'i

\$2 million in State funding will support partner organizations across all islands through a coordinated effort between the Hawai'i Foodbank, Maui Food Bank, The Food Basket, and their network of more than 500 partner agencies. Hawai'i Foodbank is stepping up to support everyone impacted by the federal shutdown — including furloughed workers, contractors and families who may see interruptions in SNAP benefit.



The Hawai'i Foodbank is seeking additional support through cash donations (preferred), food contributions, and volunteers, as they continue to maximize the capacity of their warehouses, trucks, and staff.

Visit [hawaiiifoodbank.org](http://hawaiiifoodbank.org) to learn more on how you can help.

## Get Food Assistance Across the State



**O'ahu** - Hawai'i Foodbank has nearly 200 food partner agencies on O'ahu. Access a list of Food Pantries on O'ahu at <https://hawaiiifoodbank.org>



**Kaua'i** - Hawai'i Foodbank Kaua'i has more than 30 food partner agencies. Access a list of Food Pantries on Kaua'i at <https://hawaiiifoodbank.org>



**Maui** - Maui Food Bank serves all of Maui County, including the rural areas of Hāna, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i. Find a list of Food Pantries on Maui at <https://mauifoodbank.org/programs/>



**Hawai'i Island** - The Food Basket serves Hawai'i Island. Find food distribution locations, areas of service, dates and hours of operation at [www.hawaiiifoodbasket.org/find-food-now](http://www.hawaiiifoodbasket.org/find-food-now)

## Aloha United Way 211 Hotline

AUW 2-1-1 is Hawai'i's statewide helpline activated as Hawai'i's front line for families facing food insecurity and related needs caused by the federal shutdown.

Live, local specialists are available 7 a.m.—10 p.m. daily, including holidays, to connect callers with help quickly and compassionately.

Receive support in food, shelter, financial assistance, childcare, parenting support, kūpuna care, disability services, job training and more. The service is free and confidential.

### How to reach 211:

Dial 2-1-1 anywhere in Hawai'i | Text: 877-275-6569 (deaf/hard of hearing) | Live Chat: [auw211.org](http://auw211.org)

