

### **EBT Community Springs to Action to Meet Early SNAP Issuance Demands**

The Electronic Government Payments Council of the Electronic Funds Transfer Association represents all components of the community that, day in and day out, deliver benefits to the millions of American families who depend on SNAP and WIC. From State agencies that authorize benefits, to processors that issue EBT cards and process the transactions that occur at authorized stores, to the stores where program beneficiaries obtain the food they need, all parts of this sophisticated payment system are at our table. As complex as the system is, more than 100 million purchase transactions are seamlessly processed every month for the nation's most needy population, most of whom are children, elderly or people with disabilities. Any disruption in the orderly processing of benefits is problematic to those who depend on these programs.

The EBT processors successfully worked with Federal and State program administrators to get February's SNAP benefits issued and delivered to beneficiaries early. Partners in the grocery industry worked to ensure that there was food available for purchase. Nonprofit groups assisted government agencies and the private sector in explaining the benefits to SNAP participants. Throughout the process, our stakeholder community witnessed first-hand the disruption and confusion this situation had on this vulnerable population. In many cases people sought information and answers to their questions through the States' and EBT processors' support help lines. We are proud that as a community we have been able to meet the challenge caused by the shutdown, but this type of response is not sustainable for any member of the community.

Providing benefits to SNAP and WIC clients in a safe, dependable manner is more than a business or academic matter. The members of the Electronic Government Payments Council care deeply about the missions of the Programs and about the people who depend on the benefits EBT helps deliver. We urge all parties to work to ensure that future distributions of these important benefits go forward without further disruptions.

#### **e Government Payments Council (eGPC)**

The eGovernment Payments Council (eGPC) is a working council within the Electronic Funds Transfer Association (EFTA) that focuses on the business, policy and operating issues involved in government electronic payment programs. The council is a public-private partnership consisting of state and federal entities, advocacy groups, and for-profits firms. The mission of the Council is to provide a single organization representing the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) community that can promulgate rules and best practices and advocate effectively for policy and business practices in support of EBT payments and services.

The Electronic Funds Transfer Association (EFTA) is a non-profit trade association dedicated to the advancement of electronic payments and commerce. EFTA members include the nation's leading financial institutions, ATM owners, networks and manufacturers, payment processors, card companies, software companies and technology services providers. For over 40 years it has informed debate over the consumer, business and policy implications of new and existing payments technology. EFTA accomplishes this through public outreach to Congress, executive agencies, consumers and media.

*Please note that as per Association practice, our federal and state government members did not weigh in on this matter.*