



Brooke Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

October 31, 2025

Dear Secretary Rollins,

On behalf of the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National League of Cities (NLC) and the 3,069 counties and 19,000 cities we represent, we respectfully urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to release the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) contingency funds to minimize an interruption in November benefits associated with the ongoing federal government shutdown.

Counties and cities are intergovernmental partners in administering vital federally-supported services, and our communities are already preparing for major nutrition assistance surges if SNAP issuances lapse. In states such as Wisconsin, where about 700,000 residents rely on SNAP benefits, and Minnesota, with over 400,000 recipients, food banks are stocking up in anticipation but acknowledge they won't be able to fully offset the loss of those benefits. Additionally, in the ten states where SNAP is administered at the county level, local governments are working to implement major program changes that were enacted earlier this year while continuing daily operations.

Local governments urge Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to end the shutdown. However, in the absence of congressional action, we urge USDA to:

- Release SNAP contingency funds and leverage all administrative authority to ensure that benefits can continue to be provided to eligible recipients;
- Issue clear, written guidance for states, counties, and EBT processors to issue partial benefits; and
- Coordinate with state and local leaders to address any barriers.

As you know, SNAP is an essential lifeline for many of our nation's residents and an economic imperative for our communities. Thank you for your continued partnership and prioritization of this issue on behalf of our members, who are committed to ensuring families continue to access their benefits. If you would like to speak further on this matter, please contact Julia Cortina (NACo), Associate Legislative Director at jcortina@naco.org or Stephanie Martinez-Ruckman (NLC), Legislative Director for Human Development at martinez-ruckman@nlc.org.

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Chase
CEO/Executive Director
National Association of Counties

Clarence E. Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities