



*October 31st, 2025*

Governor Wes Moore  
State House, 100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925

President Bill Ferguson  
State House, H-107  
100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Speaker Adrienne Jones  
State House, H-101,  
100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore, President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones:

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to protect the essential services that Marylanders rely on during this federal government shutdown. Unfortunately, we have reached a moment when federal inaction threatens to inflict unprecedented harm on the 680,000 Marylanders who depend on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to eat unless the state acts swiftly.

**While our organizations applaud the additional \$10 million support for Maryland's emergency food service providers, like our area food banks, we urge the Governor to use his power under the State of Emergency to provide direct cash assistance to SNAP families.** Food banks and emergency food providers alone cannot meet the scope, choice, accessibility, and independence that providing direct cash to SNAP recipients provides. By directly providing cash to SNAP recipients, with the additional resources provided to emergency food providers, Marylanders who count on SNAP will have certainty that they can provide food for their families that honors their dietary needs and preferences.

As we urge your continued leadership to invest state resources to directly support SNAP recipients, our organizations continue to call upon the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fulfill its clear legal obligation to provide federally entitled SNAP benefits and to authorize the immediate release of full November payments. We are also calling on Congress to end the shutdown through a continuing resolution that sustains essential healthcare funding. **While federal leaders are signaling their unwillingness to act, Maryland families cannot be asked to wait to eat - or have to seek out meals through emergency food providers and the kindness of their neighbors - while political negotiations continue.**

**Our 90 organizations urge you to take the necessary steps to provide state-funded SNAP benefits for November as soon as possible, and communicate to families that they will receive these much-needed funds to alleviate the stress many are already experiencing.** While we believe that USDA would have a responsibility to reimburse the state, **keeping Marylanders from going hungry is essential even if the state is ultimately not reimbursed.** There is no larger crisis than families going hungry, and the rainy day fund is designed to ameliorate harm when emergencies strike. Providing direct cash assistance to Maryland SNAP families is both the financially and morally responsible course of action.

**We also know court proceedings and rulings are actively unfolding regarding the SNAP contingency fund, but until the Trump Administration complies and funds are released, the state needs to protect Marylanders from hunger now and temporarily issue cash to SNAP households.**

Providing direct cash to SNAP recipients will prevent irrevocable harms to children, families, and our economy:

- More than 270,000 children in Maryland benefit from SNAP. Even a short-term period of hunger has lifelong consequences for children's growth and development. Children simply do not get back the days that they go hungry.
- Each \$1 in SNAP benefits creates an estimated \$1.50 in local economic activity as benefits are spent at neighborhood retailers, farmers' markets, and grocery stores. SNAP supports about 4,000 retailers with \$1.4 billion in revenue each year. Removing SNAP from local economies could lead to layoffs and closures of grocery and corner stores in communities that are already under-served.
- The loss of SNAP benefits can create a cascade of financial problems. Marylanders will face impossible decisions, like whether to put food on the table or miss utility or rent payments, which increases their risk of eviction.

There is strong and reasonable precedent for this request. Other states, including Virginia, Delaware, Vermont, Louisiana and New Mexico, have already taken action to invest state resources to sustain November SNAP benefits. Across the nation, many states are employing various mechanisms to ensure that families in need receive vital food assistance during this difficult time.

Here in Maryland, families are already struggling to put food on the table, and food banks - even with additional funding - cannot meet the need on their own. Food banks and other community organizations have already been stepping up over the past month to support the thousands of federal workers who are going without pay. The loss of more than \$120 million in food benefits would deepen this hardship into a crisis of unthinkable proportions.

We look forward to working with you on this urgent matter and stand ready to support the Moore–Miller Administration and the legislature as you lead our state with compassion, courage, and commitment through the challenges created by the federal government shutdown.

ACLU of Maryland

Advance Maryland

AFRO News

Allies for Democracy

Ames United Methodist Church

Anne Arundel County Food Bank

Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS)

Asylee Women Enterprise (AWE)

Baltimore (MD) Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi

Baltimore County Progressive Democrats Club

Baltimore Families for Justice

Baltimore Jewish Council

Baltimore Rapid Response Network

Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Church

Behavioral Health System Baltimore

Beloved Community Services Corporation

Bethesda African Cemetery Coalition

Black United Front Of Moco

CASA

CASH Campaign of Maryland

CATA Farmworkers Support Committee

Catonsville Indivisibles

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Environmental Justice Ministry

Clean Water Action

Coalition for a Healthier Frederick County

Common Cause Maryland

Community Development Network of MD

Critical Issues Forum

Dominion Community Development Corporation

Down Syndrome Association of Maryland

Economic Action Maryland Fund

F.R.I.E.N.D.S.

Food & Water Watch

Food and Care For All Inc

Gibson-Banks Center for Race and the Law, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

Goshen UMC

Health Care for the Homeless

Horizon Foundation

Indivisible Bowie and Beyond (IBBMD)

Indivisible Frederick MD

Indivisible MoCo WoMen

Indivisible Prince George's County

Indivisible Worcester Maryland

Jews United for Justice

La Clinica del Pueblo

Laurel Resist

League of Women Voters of Maryland

Linden Heights United Methodist Church

Manna Food Center

Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education

Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition

Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition

Maryland Education Coalition

Maryland Family Network

Maryland Hunger Solutions

Maryland Legislative Coalition

Maryland Nonprofits

Maryland Public Health Association

Maryland Rise

Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

Maryland Center on Economic Policy

Montgomery County Food Council



Montgomery County Jewish Collective

Montgomery County, MD National Organization for Women

NAACP Howard County

New Covenant Community United Church of Christ

No Boundaries Coalition

Northwood Appold UMC

Organizing Black

Out for Justice

Paul's Place Outreach

Progressive Harford County

Progressive Maryland

Public Justice Center

Rockville Renters United

Saint James UMC - Marriottsville

SEIU Local 500

Sharp Street Memorial UMC-United Women in Faith

Shift the Prism Advisory

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore (SURJ)

Social Work Advocates for Social Change

St. John's-Lutherville/ Idlewylde UMC's

Food and Care For All Inc

Takoma Park Mobilization

The Upcounty Hub

Trans Maryland

UNITE HERE Local 7

United Workers

Women's Democratic Club of Montgomery County, MD

CC:

- Acting Secretary Yaakov “Jake” Weissmann, Department of Budget and Management
- Secretary Rafael López, Department of Human Services
- Chairman Guy Guzzone, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
- Chairman Ben Barnes, House Appropriations Committee