

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: SNAP

Dear Neighbor,

I am reaching out today with urgent information regarding an update to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Starting **tomorrow, November 1**, individuals who qualify for SNAP **will not receive their regular November benefits** due to the federal government shutdown.

There are **1.4 million Ohioans, including nearly 600,000 children**, who will be affected by the interruption of SNAP benefits in November. Here at home in Cuyahoga County, we have the largest number of SNAP recipients in the state. More than **190,000 residents—54% of whom are seniors and children—rely on SNAP in the county, and 19,633 residents in District 21** will shoulder the burden of this crisis.

This situation is continuing to evolve, and our office will work to keep you as informed as possible. For now, please see below for steps you can take, available resources, and what actions the state government is pursuing.

Sincerely,

Eric Synenberg

Eric Synenberg
State Representative, District 21



WHAT SHOULD SNAP RECIPIENTS BE DOING?

1. Current SNAP recipients should **keep their paperwork up-to-date, maintain all program requirements, and keep recertifying your benefits as you normally would even if no new benefits are added in November.** This is so when the shutdown ends and/or SNAP benefits return, you can continue to receive benefits as normal and potentially be owed back-benefits.
2. **If you are in the middle of applying for SNAP benefits, continue to do so.** County JFS offices will continue the process applications for when benefits return.
3. If you have any leftover **October SNAP benefits still on your card, you can still access and use those benefits.**
4. If you were only **recently approved for October** SNAP benefits and are still owed those benefits, **you will still be able to access them even in November.**



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WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO ME?

Cuyahoga County, Department of Jobs and Family Services (JFS)

We have been in conversation with Cuyahoga County Department of Jobs and Family Services (JFS), **they are open for business and ready to help constituents with questions related to their snap benefits, application processes, recertification of benefits, and program requirements.**

Phone: (844) 640-6446

Address: 1641 Payne Ave, Cleveland, OH 44114

United Way of Greater Cleveland

The United Way of Greater Cleveland helps families access food, housing, and essential services, ensuring support reaches those who need it most, especially during crises like the SNAP benefit pause.

Website: <https://www.unitedwaycleveland.org/>

Phone: 2-1-1

Local Food Banks

As SNAP benefits are paused, food banks across our region are stepping up to help ensure no one goes without food during this crisis. Our largest partner, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, has programs and agencies across Northeast Ohio that work together to provide food assistance and hot meals. Below are some local to HD21:

CCPL - South Euclid-Lyndhurst

1876 S Green Rd
Cleveland, OH 44121
(216) 382-4880

Cleveland Kosher Food Pantry

2004 S Green Rd
Cleveland, OH 44121
(216) 382-7202

Heights Emergency Food Center

3663 Mayfield Rd
Cleveland, OH 44121
(216) 381-0707

Grace Tabernacle Baptist Church

5020 Mayfield Rd
Cleveland, OH 44124
216-401-0414

South Euclid United Church of Christ

4217 Bluestone Rd
South Euclid, OH 44121
216-658-4254

Community Partnership on Aging - Produce Plus

1370 Victory Dr
South Euclid, OH 44121
216-291-3902

To find other local food pantries, hot meal sites, and information please scan the QR code below or use the link provided:

Full Link:

<https://www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org/get-help/find-food>



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WHAT IS THE STATE OF OHIO DOING?

Democrats Urgent Call to Action

Earlier this week, our Democratic Caucus **sent a letter to Governor DeWine urging immediate action by declaring a state of emergency and working with the legislature to unlock up to \$100 million** in funding to ensure food banks can feed those in need.

Our colleague, Rep. Latyna Humphrey, has **introduced HB 502, which would have continued to fund SNAP and other programs in the event of a lapse in federal funding**. The majority has yet to refer the bill to a committee, give it a public hearing, or consider it for a full vote in the House of Representatives.

Additionally, **we offered an amendment on the House floor** that was not taken up, which would:

1. Provide emergency funds to Ohio food banks until the government shutdown ends or SNAP recipients begin receiving their benefits;
2. Appropriate \$100 million as needed by food banks to meet increased demand during the shutdown;
3. Require the Department of Job and Family Services to work with the Ohio Association of Foodbanks (OAFB) to determine the timeline for distributing funds; and
4. Require OAFB to coordinate with Meals on Wheels and similar nonprofit food-delivery organizations to serve disabled individuals, seniors, and others who lack transportation.

Last Minute Decisions

It was only yesterday, that Governor DeWine **signed an executive order directing the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to give \$7 million through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to various Ohio food banks and up to \$18 million in funds to Ohioans who are at or below 50% of the federal poverty level who already qualify for Ohio Works First (OWF) cash assistance**. The Governor's executive order is a necessary start, but without additional funding, Ohio can't cover the gaps in vital food assistance.

Office of Representative Synenberg

Our office is here to assist and answer questions. Please use any of the contact information provided throughout this newsletter to **reach us by phone or email**. We are continuing to stay in touch with our community partners, county, and local officials. We will update you as new information becomes available. You can find more information on my website: <https://www.ohiohouse.gov/members/eric-synenberg>