



Chief Executive Officer
Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

October 28, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins,

On behalf of DeKalb County and the 765,000 residents we proudly serve, I am writing to express our deep concern regarding the recent notice from the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS) announcing that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will not be available beginning November 1, 2025, due to the ongoing federal government shutdown.

As of the most recent data available from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED), over 127,000 DeKalb County residents rely on SNAP benefits each month to meet basic nutritional needs. Statewide, more than 1.4 million Georgians depend on this critical safety-net program. A lapse in federal appropriations threatens to disrupt access to food for children, seniors, veterans, and working families across our communities.

We recognize that this situation is driven by the federal funding impasse, yet the effects will be felt most acutely at the local level. DeKalb County stands ready to collaborate with our state and federal partners to identify temporary relief measures, including:

- Exploring state-level contingency funds or emergency allocations to bridge the gap if federal benefits remain suspended.
- Coordinating with regional food banks, faith-based groups, and nonprofits to mobilize short-term food distribution.
- Ensuring clear communication to residents about available resources and how to check their existing EBT balances.

We respectfully urge the administration and USDA to work swiftly toward restoring full funding to SNAP and other essential programs affected by the shutdown. Our most vulnerable residents cannot afford to wait.

DeKalb County remains committed to being an active partner in ensuring that every family has access to the necessities required to live with dignity.

Bes,

Lorraine Cochran-Johnson
Chief Executive Officer
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