

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY

October 31, 2025

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that it will cease issuing benefits for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as of November 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, SNAP benefits provide low-income families across the Commonwealth critical assistance they need to feed themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, each month, Pennsylvanians receive more than \$366 million from the federal government in SNAP benefits to purchase healthy food and meet their nutritional needs. In 2024, an average of 2,025,387 Pennsylvanians received SNAP benefits, including 713,811 children and 697,001 older adults; and

WHEREAS, more than \$4.3 billion in SNAP benefits were issued to Pennsylvanians during state fiscal year 2024, and the cessation of SNAP benefits will have an immediate and devastating impact on families and older adults seeking access to nutritious food; and

WHEREAS, the sudden loss of funds to purchase food threatens the health, safety, and welfare of citizens across the Commonwealth and creates a critical need for state, county, and local governments to prepare to support the millions of Pennsylvanians who will no longer have access to adequate nutrition; and

WHEREAS, as the federal budget impasse continues into the approaching winter months, citizens of the Commonwealth will continue to experience the effects of the loss of essential support from other federally funded programs, further increasing the hardship of meeting daily needs; and

WHEREAS, the emergency event is of such magnitude or severity as to render essential the Commonwealth's supplementation of county and municipal efforts and resources and the activation of all applicable state, county, and municipal emergency response plans; and

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Article IV, Section 20 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I do hereby proclaim the existence of a general disaster emergency in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and authorize and direct that the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Director, or designee, assume command and control of all statewide emergency operations and that all Commonwealth departments and agencies, under the direction of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Director, or designee, utilize all available powers, resources and personnel as deemed necessary to cope with the magnitude and severity of this emergency event pursuant to the provisions of the

Emergency Management Services Code, Title 35, Part V of Pennsylvania's Consolidated Statutes. 35 Pa. C.S. § 7101, et seq.

FURTHER, I hereby authorize the Secretary of the Budget, in his sole discretion, to use any prior year monies held pursuant to section 621 of the Administrative Code of 1929, as amended, in whatever manner as deemed necessary to deal with the exigencies of this disaster emergency. I hereby direct that any unencumbered funds transferred herein be returned to the General Fund upon expiration of the disaster emergency; and

FURTHER, all Commonwealth agencies purchasing supplies or services in response to this emergency are authorized to utilize the emergency procurement procedures set forth in section 516 of the Commonwealth Procurement Code, 62 Pa. C.S. § 516. This Proclamation shall serve as the written determination of the basis for the emergency under 62 Pa. C.S. § 516; and

FURTHER, I hereby direct the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to staff the Commonwealth Response Coordination Center for the duration of this emergency event, and to augment it with personnel from other Commonwealth agencies and departments. I also authorize the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to direct and coordinate the emergency response, recovery, and mitigation activities of other Commonwealth agencies and departments as deemed necessary to deal with the exigencies of this disaster emergency through implementation of the State Emergency Operations Plan; and

FURTHER, I hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, in his sole discretion, to suspend or waive any provision of law or regulation which the Department of Agriculture is authorized by law to administer or enforce, to ensure that the public health, safety, and welfare of the Commonwealth's citizens are protected at the time of this emergency, and take whatever actions within the agency's jurisdiction that may be necessary to cope with the disaster emergency; and

FURTHER, I hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Health, in her sole discretion, to suspend or waive any provision of law or regulation which the Department of Health is authorized by law to administer or enforce, to ensure that the public health, safety, and welfare of the Commonwealth's citizens are protected at the time of this emergency, and take whatever actions within the agency's jurisdiction that may be necessary to cope with the disaster emergency; and

FURTHER, I hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Community and Economic Development, in his sole discretion, to suspend or waive any provision of law or regulation which the Department of Community and Economic Development is authorized by law to administer or enforce, and take whatever actions within the agency's jurisdiction that may be necessary to cope with the disaster emergency; and

FURTHER, I hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Human Services, in her sole discretion, to suspend or waive any provision of law or regulation which the Department of Human Services is authorized by law to administer or enforce, to ensure that the public health, safety, and welfare of the Commonwealth's citizens are protected at the time of this emergency, and take whatever actions within the agency's jurisdiction that may be necessary to cope with the disaster emergency; and

FURTHER, I hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Transportation to use all available equipment, resources, and personnel of the department in whatever manner as deemed necessary to respond to this emergency. If investigations conducted on my behalf determine that the Commonwealth requires greater flexibility in the application of state or federal motor carrier regulations to accommodate truck drivers engaged in emergency response activities, I hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, in his sole discretion, to waive any provision of the Vehicle Code, or any other law or regulation which he is authorized by law to administer or enforce, as may be necessary to respond to this emergency event; and

FURTHER, I authorize the Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police to use all available resources and personnel in whatever manner as deemed necessary during this emergency to support and assist the actions of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency in addressing the consequences of this emergency; and

FURTHER, I hereby direct that the emergency response, recovery, and mitigation aspects of the Commonwealth and all applicable county, municipal, and other emergency response plans be activated and that all state, county, and municipal actions taken to implement those plans be coordinated through the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency; and

FURTHER, I hereby suspend the provisions of any other regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of Commonwealth business, or the orders, rules or regulations of any Commonwealth agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, rule or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with this emergency event. All Commonwealth agencies may implement their emergency assignments without regard to procedures required by other laws, except mandatory constitutional requirements, pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, incurring of obligations, employment of temporary workers, rental of equipment, purchase of supplies and materials, and expenditures of public funds; and

STILL FURTHER, I hereby urge the governing bodies and executive officers of all political subdivisions that may be affected by this emergency to act as necessary to meet the current exigencies as legally authorized under this proclamation, namely, by the employment of temporary workers; by the rental of equipment; and by entering into such contracts and agreements as may be required to meet the emergency, all without regard to those time-consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law, mandatory constitutional requirements excepted.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this thirty-first day of October, two thousand twenty-five, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred fiftieth.


JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor