



The State of Maryland

Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER

01.01.2025.21

Providing Food for Marylanders and Preventing Hunger

- WHEREAS On October 30, 2025, a State of Emergency was declared via Executive Order 01.01.2025.20 due to the widespread economic disruption and damage to the welfare of Marylanders caused by the prolonged shutdown of federal government operations, pursuant to Title 14 of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Code;
- WHEREAS, As a result of the prolonged federal government shutdown, the federal administration notified the State of Maryland on October 10, 2025, that there will be insufficient funds to pay Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits for the month of November;
- WHEREAS, Over 680,000 low-income Marylanders, including more than 270,000 children, rely on an average monthly federally funded SNAP benefit of \$180 to purchase healthy food;
- WHEREAS, The SNAP benefits program is administered by the Maryland Department of Human Services, and involves the issuance of monthly benefits using federal funds to customers that can be used to purchase food at over 3,800 authorized retailers statewide, including farmers' markets and small family-owned corner stores in every one of Maryland's 24 local jurisdictions;
- WHEREAS, The federal administration directed the State of Maryland to withhold November SNAP benefits from Marylanders;
- WHEREAS The failure of the federal government to fund SNAP benefits during this prolonged government shutdown creates a hunger crisis in Maryland,

leaving our most vulnerable residents at risk of losing the most basic human need;

WHEREAS, The reckless actions of the federal administration leading up to and during the federal government shutdown have also left a significant number of Marylanders who are not current recipients of SNAP benefits dependent on food assistance, including federal government employees who have been furloughed and other workers who have lost wages during the shutdown; and

WHEREAS, It being necessary to protect the public health and welfare, the Moore-Miller Administration will address this crisis by using the Governor's emergency powers to direct State funds to be used to enhance and expand critical services at the State's food banks and other organizations that provide food assistance to feed people and prevent hunger.

NOW THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO TITLE 14 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE, AND IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC WELFARE, HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

Providing Food Assistance and Preventing Hunger

- A. Until the State of Emergency is terminated:
 - 1. The provisions of § 7-330(g) and (i) of the State Finance and Procurement Article of the Maryland Code, authorizing the permissible uses and expenditures of the Fiscal Responsibility Fund ("FRF"), are hereby suspended for the purposes of providing relief set forth in this Order; and
 - 2. All other laws and regulations that might otherwise restrict a budget amendment transferring funds from the FRF to specified State agencies are hereby suspended for the purposes of providing relief set forth in this Order.
- B. Pursuant to Section A of this Order, the Secretary of Budget and Management shall transfer \$10 million from the FRF to the Department of Human Services to be used to provide funds to organizations that provide food assistance, so that they may provide food to Marylanders and prevent hunger.

- C. The Secretary of Human Services shall distribute the funds transferred pursuant to this Order to organizations that provide food assistance in a manner determined by the Secretary of Human Services to be the most equitable, efficient and effective to provide food to the greatest number of Marylanders impacted by the federal government shutdown and prevent hunger.
- D. The Secretary of Emergency Management shall coordinate with the Secretary of Human Services and all relevant State departments and agencies as necessary to organize, manage and distribute the food assistance relief set forth in this Order.

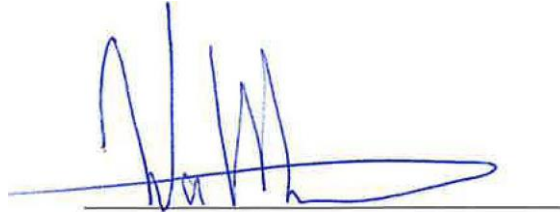
Ensuring Continuity of Maryland Farms and Families Fund

- E. Until the State of Emergency is terminated, the provisions of § 10-2003 of the Agriculture Article of the Maryland Code, that require purchases at participating farmers markets and farm stands be made with federal benefits in order to be eligible for matching funds from the Maryland Farms and Families Fund, are hereby suspended.
- F. The Secretary of Agriculture shall effectuate the distribution of the matching funds from the Maryland Farms and Families Fund.

General Provisions

- G. If any provision of this Executive Order or its application to any person, entity, or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions or applications of the Executive Order shall remain in effect to the extent possible without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Executive Order are severable.

GIVEN Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, this 30th Day of October 2025.



Wes Moore
Governor

ATTEST:



Susan C. Lee
Secretary of State

