

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 27, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Pennsylvania Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

We write to express our significant concern regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture's announcement that there would be insufficient funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to pay full benefits in November.¹ As a result, nearly 300,000 Orange County residents — over half of them children — will lose this vital food assistance starting November 1. We urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to do everything in its power to ensure that families can put food on the table next month and make clear to states that they should continue to accept and process SNAP applications during the federal shutdown.

As you know, the SNAP program, known in California as CalFresh, is a vital nutrition assistance program which supports low-income families, seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities. It is the nation's most important anti-hunger program, and, in an average month in 2024, CalFresh helped more than 3 million low-income Californian households put food on their table.² Although SNAP is a mandatory program, funding is provided by annual appropriation made by Congress. Unfortunately, this requirement means that millions of Orange County residents are made vulnerable every time that Congress cannot fund the federal government.

Regrettably, as the federal government is solidly into the third week of a shutdown, CalFresh is experiencing immense administrative strain. If the shutdown continues, benefits will be delayed or missed entirely for November, putting low-income families, seniors, veterans, and individuals at risk. Without additional funding, State agencies will face another looming crisis, and many have been forced to make contingency plans as of this week. If funding is disrupted, the California Department of Social Services has warned that they may be forced to discontinue services for CalFresh participants amidst the uncertainty of federal funding.³

Allowing funding for lifeline programs like SNAP to lapse is never an acceptable option. USDA and the Trump Administration have the budgetary tools to prevent this from happening and to provide SNAP

¹ Roll Call. "USDA's Rollins Says Food Stamp Funding to Dry Up in Two Weeks." Washington, DC: *Roll Call*, October 16, 2025. Available at: <https://rollcall.com/2025/10/16/usdas-rollins-says-food-stamp-funding-to-dry-up-in-two-weeks/>

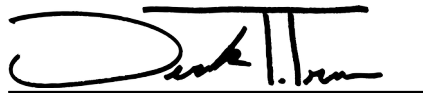
² Legislative Analyst's Office (California). *The 2025–26 Budget: Food Assistance Programs*. California Legislative Analyst's Office, February 19, 2025. <https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/4971>

³ California Department of Social Services. *All County Letter No. 25-75*. California Department of Social Services, 2025. <https://cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/Additional-Resources/Letters-and-Notices/ACLs/2025/25-75.pdf>

with the resources needed to serve Orange County families without disruption. During the 2018-2019 shutdown, the Trump Administration previously exercised budgetary workarounds to ensure that SNAP recipients had access to their benefits for two full months despite the lapse in appropriations.⁴ USDA's September 30, 2025 Lapse of Funding Plan also explained that "multi-year contingency funds are also available to fund participant benefits in the event that a lapse occurs in the middle of the fiscal year."⁵ In addition, USDA has statutory transfer authority and other legal authorities at its disposal to supplement these contingency funds and fully fund November benefits. In fact, this authority was recently used by the USDA to maintain WIC benefits during the shutdown when it transferred funding to WIC from the Child Nutrition program account.⁶ The Administration has both the legal authority and historic precedent to ensure SNAP benefits continue uninterrupted, making any funding disruption a choice rather than an inevitability.

Orange County residents are already struggling with the rising cost of groceries and cannot afford a sudden lapse in vital food assistance programs like SNAP. We respectfully urge that USDA immediately exercise all available legal authorities to avert devastating disruptions to SNAP. Without swift action, thousands of families, children, seniors, people with disabilities, and veterans in Orange County could lose access to the nutritious foods and health support they need. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress

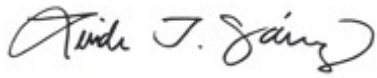


J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

⁴ U.S. Department of Agriculture. "USDA Announces Plan to Protect SNAP Participants' Access to SNAP in February." Press release, January 8, 2019. <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2019/01/08/usda-announces-plan-protect-snap-participants-access-snap-february>

⁵ U.S. Department of Agriculture. *Fiscal Year 2026 USDA Lapse in Appropriations Contingency Plan*. USDA, 2025. <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fy2026-usda-lapse-plan.pdf>

⁶ Associated Press. "WIC food program receives \$300M to keep running during government shutdown." AP News, October 2025. <https://apnews.com/article/government-shutdown-wic-food-a6d66fa0ce3d02257b5b43a79355b1bf>



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress