



ANDY BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Secretary of State
Frankfort
Kentucky

2025-740
October 31, 2025

STATE OF EMERGENCY

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the largest federal anti-hunger program in the country. It is administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is a key part of Kentucky's efforts to address hunger by supplementing the food budgets of low-income families in order to purchase healthy food. SNAP involves the issuance of monthly electronic benefits that may be used to purchase food at authorized retail stores. In Kentucky, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services distributes these benefits.

So far in 2025, nearly 593,000 people have received these SNAP benefits in Kentucky each month, including approximately 280,000 families and 230,000 children. Eligible households in Kentucky receive an average of \$368 per month in SNAP benefits to meet their basic subsistence and nutritional needs.

Citing the ongoing federal government shutdown lapse, the USDA has ceased benefits effective on November 1, 2025, placing these 280,000 households and 230,000 children in Kentucky at imminent risk of food insecurity. This is despite previous statements by USDA that they could continue funding during a federal government shutdown lapse. USDA has also stated that individual states may not use the SNAP system to provide state-funded benefits. Without supplemental benefits to support their food budgets, these Kentucky households face an imminent threat to their safety and health.

Feeding Kentucky is the state's largest charitable response to hunger. It operates a network of seven Feeding America food banks to provide food and groceries to Kentuckians facing hunger in all 120 counties. Feeding Kentucky possesses the framework and operational capabilities to apply Feeding America's Goal Factor formula, based on the most recent Map the Meal Gap data, to ensure food supplies are distributed proportionally.

Kentucky Revised Statute 39A.100 permits the Governor to declare that a state of emergency exists in the event of the occurrence or threatened or impending occurrence of an event that threatens public safety and health. Kentuckians going hungry threatens public health and safety, and the federal government's and the Trump Administration's refusal to fund the SNAP program to help feed our vulnerable citizens will significantly increase the demand on food banks in Kentucky.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Kentucky Constitution and KRS Chapter 39A, do hereby declare a State of Emergency exists in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and do hereby ORDER and DIRECT that:

1. The Division of Emergency Management within the Department of Military Affairs shall work with the Office of the State Budget Director to identify, allocate, and transfer funds as necessary from available sources to support the food banks during the lapse of SNAP funding. They shall begin with \$5 million of necessary government expenses from the budget reserve trust fund appropriated to be expended as required by a declared state of emergency.
2. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall provide these identified funds to Feeding Kentucky, the state's largest charitable response to hunger, through



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existing memorandums of agreement to secure the food safety of Kentucky households for the duration of the State of Emergency by purchasing and distributing additional food.

This Order shall be effective October 31, 2025.

A handwritten signature of Andy Beshear in black ink.

ANDY BESHEAR, Governor
Commonwealth of Kentucky

A handwritten signature of Michael G. Adams in black ink.

MICHAEL G. ADAMS
Secretary of State



RECEIVED AND FILED
DATE October 31, 2025

MICHAEL G. ADAMS
SECRETARY OF STATE
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BY Katherine Ellis