



ORANGE COUNTY MAYOR

Jerry L. Demings

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October 29, 2025

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis:

I am writing to express my concern about the importance of maintaining the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits during the Federal government shutdown. It is crucial that these essential services remain available to those in need during this critical time. In Orange County, more than 175,000 residents depend on SNAP benefits and will lose access to funds needed to purchase groceries for their families starting November 1st if immediate action is not taken. The SNAP recipients in Orange County include seniors, children, veterans, and persons with disabilities. I urge you and the Florida Legislature to enact the state's emergency funding to fund SNAP benefits until the federal government reopens and distributes these essential funds.

Currently, Orange County provides \$5.3 million in funding to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida to purchase food for residents in need. As our local governments, food pantries, faith-based leaders, and nonprofit organizations continue to address food insecurity in our community, the demand for food will increase exponentially without SNAP funding. Florida has the fourth-largest number of SNAP enrollments in the nation. The federal government and the State of Florida have a responsibility to ensure that residents have access to nutritious food. This is a fundamental human right, and we must not allow our most vulnerable populations to be deprived.

To prevent this food crisis, I urge the State of Florida to take immediate action and provide funding to maintain SNAP benefits during the federal government shutdown.

Sincerely,

Jerry L. Demings
Orange County Mayor

c: Orange County Board of County Commissioners
Orange County Legislative Delegation