



October 29, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Request for Immediate Action on SNAP Benefits

Dear Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the Jewish Federations of North America, representing 141 Jewish Federations and over 300 network communities across the United States, we write with urgency regarding the impending lapse in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). If SNAP benefits are not renewed, millions of households will immediately face hunger and hardship. We respectfully urge you to act without delay to ensure uninterrupted SNAP benefits, either through an emergency appropriations measure or by resolving the current funding impasse.

SNAP is the nation's primary food assistance program, ensuring that low-income families, people with disabilities, and older adults can afford nutritious food. In our community, the stakes are particularly high:

- One in three Holocaust survivors in the United States lives in poverty and depend on programs like SNAP to meet basic needs;
- 19% of Jewish households report that they are either unable to make ends meet or only just managing to do so; and
- Kosher food remains expensive with some products, particularly meat, costing up to 50% more than non-Kosher products.

The Jewish Federation network provides financial support for food pantries, home-delivered meals, senior support services, and emergency assistance

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across the country to individuals in need regardless of background. But philanthropy cannot replace the scale and stability of federal nutrition programs. While our network contributes significant private resources, charitable dollars amount to only a tiny fraction of what SNAP provides. If federal benefits lapse, no amount of community fundraising will prevent widespread hunger.

The consequences of inaction are immediate and avoidable. A lapse in benefits will force families and older adults to skip meals, fall behind on rent and utilities, and delay essential medical care. The impact will be felt not only by households already struggling, but by the nonprofit agencies and faith-based organizations serving them — straining community safety nets beyond capacity.

We respectfully urge you to act now to prevent a catastrophic interruption of SNAP benefits. Ensuring access to food is a fundamental and bipartisan commitment and one that reflects the dignity and well-being of those we serve in every community across the country.

Thank you for your attention and leadership.

Sincerely,

Eric Fingerhut
President & CEO

Jason Wuliger
Chair, Public Affairs Committee

