



C I T Y O F  
**RENO**

## Memorandum

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**DATE:** October 29, 2025

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**THROUGH:** Jackie Bryant, City Manager

**FROM:** Calli Wilsey, Director of Policy & Strategy  
Nic Ciccone, Government Affairs Manager

**DEPT:** Office of Policy & Strategy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jackie Bryant".

**SUBJECT:** State of Nevada Response to Federal Shutdown Impacts on Nutrition Programs

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The ongoing federal government shutdown is impacting access to federal nutrition benefits for Reno residents. The State of Nevada is taking emergency measures to support vulnerable populations, but significant challenges remain, especially for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) and Women, Infants, and Children's (WIC) Program benefits.

Attorney General Ford's office announced that the State of Nevada is joining a lawsuit against the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) for threatening to suspend SNAP benefits during the federal shutdown, arguing the decision is unlawful and unnecessarily harmful. The lawsuit asserts that USDA has contingency funds available and is deliberately refusing to fund SNAP, which would leave millions, including nearly 500,000 Nevadans, without food assistance. The coalition is also seeking a temporary restraining order to immediately restore SNAP benefits.

In addition to the lawsuit brought forth by the attorney general's office, Governor Lombardo's office announced plans to provide supplemental food programs to Nevadans during the shutdown. A summary of a memo released by Governor Lombardo's office on October 27 detailing the impacts and planned response can be found below.

### **WIC Program:**

- Over 55,000 Nevada participants will continue to receive WIC food benefits through December 23, 2025, due to \$7.3 million in emergency state funding.
- This funding ensures uninterrupted support for pregnant women, new mothers, and young children, regardless of federal funding status.

**SNAP Program:**

- Nearly 500,000 Nevadans rely on SNAP, with \$90 million in monthly benefits, all federally funded.
- If the shutdown continues past October 31, federal funds will be insufficient for November SNAP benefits.
- State law and federal regulations prohibit Nevada from directly funding SNAP at the required scale.

**Planned State Response:**

- Governor Lombardo has initiated the Food Insecurity Nevada Plan, allocating \$38.8 million in state funds to provide supplemental food resources if SNAP benefits are disrupted.
- The Food Insecurity Nevada Plan will be coordinated with local food banks.
- The Nevada National Guard will assist with food distribution as needed.
- Additional food resources will be available to all Nevadans affected by the shutdown, not just SNAP recipients.
- An item to consider the allocation will be on the Interim Finance Committee agenda on Thursday, October 30.

Finally, at the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners meeting on October 28, a public commenter expressed concerns about the lapse of nutrition program benefits. Commissioner Garcia asked County Manager Thomas to provide an update on local impacts. County Manager Thomas acknowledged that while Washoe County may not be the administrator of these benefits, the county acts as a regional leader in this space. The County has been in contact with the local food bank (Foodbank of Northern Nevada) and the Governor's Finance Office to get the message out about the state response. The County is also looking at ways to assist via donation campaigns and/or communications assistance.

Reno residents seeking more information about the Foodbank of Northern Nevada's programs or to donate may do so by going to [fbnn.org](http://fbnn.org). Federal government shutdown information for SNAP participants can be found at [dss.nv.gov](http://dss.nv.gov).

**Exhibit A:** Attorney General Ford Sues Trump Administration Over Threats to Nevadans' SNAP Benefits

**Exhibit B:** Federal Shutdown Fact Sheet: SNAP and WIC Benefits

**Exhibit C:** 10-30-25 Interim Finance Committee Agenda

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**AGPRESS Digest - 27 Oct 2025 to 28 Oct 2025 - Special issue (#2025-116)**

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**From** AGPRESS automatic digest system <LISTSERV@LISTSERV.STATE.NV.US>

**Date** Tue 2025-10-28 9:22 AM

**To** AGPRESS@LISTSERV.STATE.NV.US <AGPRESS@LISTSERV.STATE.NV.US>

There is 1 message totaling 15332 lines in this issue.

Topics in this special issue:

1. Attorney General Ford Leads Multistate Brief Supporting National TRIO Programs Threatened by Federal Grant Cuts

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Date: Tue, 28 Oct 2025 15:22:10 +0000

From: "John T. Sadler" <jsadler@AG.NV.GOV>

Subject: Attorney General Ford Leads Multistate Brief Supporting National TRIO Programs Threatened by Federal Grant Cuts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Oct. 28, 2025

Contact: John Sadler

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Attorney General Ford Leads Multistate Brief Supporting National TRIO Programs Threatened by Federal Grant Cuts

Carson City, NV – Today, Nevada Attorney General Aaron D. Ford announced that he and Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell are leading a coalition of 20 states in filing an amicus brief supporting the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) in two lawsuits challenging the U.S. Department of Education's (DOE) recent decisions to cut off funding for the long-standing federal TRIO programs.

The amicus brief, filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, supports COE's efforts to protect access to higher education for low-income, first-generation and underrepresented students. The lawsuits seek to stop the DOE's discontinuation of many active TRIO grants and denial of new Student

Support Services (SSS) grants, both of which the DOE justified under newly adopted federal policies that restrict diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives.

“TRIO programs have been a lifeline for generations of Nevadans striving to achieve their dreams of higher education,” said AG Ford. “These programs are proven and effective and have been fully funded by Congress. Cutting off funding because of shifting political winds not only harms students but undermines the federal government’s responsibility to promote fairness and opportunity. Nevada’s future depends on an educated and skilled workforce, and programs like TRIO make that future possible. Our office will continue to stand up for students who are working hard to change their lives through education.”

The two complaints filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia address separate but related actions. The TRIO complaint challenges the DOE’s failure to continue dozens of ongoing TRIO grants that were funded through 2026. The SSS complaint contests the denial of new SSS grant applications, which the DOE rejected after retroactively applying new anti-DEI policies despite the fact that applications were submitted under 2024 guidance from the prior administration, which required applicants to describe how their programs would address equity and accessibility. The challenged actions have already forced longstanding programs at college and universities nationwide to close, denying support to students who rely on them.

These lawsuits assert that the DOE’s actions violate multiple provisions of the U.S. Constitution and the Administrative Procedure Act, as well as Congressional intent in maintaining TRIO programs for nearly six decades.

TRIO programs have operated in Nevada for decades, providing mentorship, tutoring and academic support that help students from disadvantaged backgrounds succeed in college.

At UNR, TRIO’s Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math-Science programs help hundreds of first-generation and low-income students annually — 100% of whom were accepted into postsecondary education last year. At UNLV, more than 80% of Upward Bound participants enroll in college after graduation. At the College of Southern Nevada, SSS participants graduated at a significantly higher rate than their peers, but the DOE’s challenged failure to fund the program has caused it to close.

The amicus brief filed by Nevada and joining states underscores that the sudden loss of federal funding for these programs would have severe and long-term consequences for students, colleges, and state economies.

In supporting the amicus briefs, Attorney General Ford is joined by the attorneys general of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin.

Copies of the amicus briefs are attached.

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End of AGPRESS Digest - 27 Oct 2025 to 28 Oct 2025 - Special issue (#2025-116)

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**Joe Lombardo**  
GOVERNOR

### **Federal Shutdown Fact Sheet: SNAP and WIC Benefits**

The federal shutdown continues to impact access to federal benefits for Nevadans. A fact sheet updated on October 27 is provided below:

#### **What is the status of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) in Nevada?**

- Governor Lombardo has been dedicated to ensuring that the more than 55,000 participants of Nevada's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program continue to have access to food benefits during the federal government shutdown. To support that direction, the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, in partnership with the Nevada Office of Emergency Management, requested \$7.3 million in emergency funding to support WIC.
- The funding was approved by the Nevada Board of Examiners on October 14 and the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) on October 16. This funding will ensure continued food benefits for participants statewide including pregnant women, new mothers, and young children through December 23, 2025, regardless of federal funding. This request was a proactive step to prevent a disruption in services for families during the federal shutdown and underscores Nevada's commitment to public health. Funds will be distributed weekly and only used if the USDA does not provide additional WIC food funding.

#### **What is the status of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in Nevada?**

- In Nevada, about 495,000 individuals currently receive the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) SNAP benefits. Approximately \$90 million a month in SNAP benefits are issued to Nevadans. SNAP benefits are 100% federally funded and DSS approves the benefits on behalf of the federal government.
  - SNAP is not an emergency food program. SNAP provides supplemental benefits to qualified households.
  - In Nevada, 70% of SNAP households report some type of income with 28% of SNAP households reporting earned income.
  - In Nevada, 28% report earned income from employment, while the other 42% have unearned income. Unearned income is income such as Unemployment, Social Security, or TANF cash assistance.



**Joe Lombardo**  
**GOVERNOR**

- In October 2025, 15.58% of Nevada SNAP households received a \$100 benefit per month or less with 8.4% of Nevada SNAP households receiving a \$25 benefit per month or less.
- If the federal government shutdown extends beyond October 31, federal funding would be insufficient to cover SNAP benefits for November.
- Alongside the Office of the Governor, DSS continues to closely monitor the federal shutdown and the impacts to SNAP recipients. Once the government reopens, DSS will wait for federal guidance on how to process benefits impacted by the shutdown. Additional food resources can be found at [Nevada 211](#).

**The State is funding the WIC program with emergency state funds. Can the State fund the SNAP program similarly?**

- Unfortunately, no. SNAP benefits are funded with federal dollars. Monthly benefits for Nevada SNAP recipients cost approximately \$90 million. The State does not have this amount of funding available in the Emergency Account, Disaster Relief Account, or the IFC Contingency Unrestricted General Fund.
- While the State could seek access to reverted General Fund dollars, unspent American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, or Rainy Day Funds through legislative authorization to temporarily fund emergency benefits, current federal regulations prohibit states from funding the SNAP program directly.
- Accordingly, per the regulations outlined by the USDA, even if Governor Lombardo called a special convening of the Legislature and the Legislature opted to appropriate temporary SNAP funding, the State would not be able to directly fund the program.

**How is the State seeking to assist SNAP beneficiaries during this time?**

- Despite the State's inability to legally fund SNAP with state dollars, Governor Lombardo has directed the Governor's Finance Office, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Agriculture to implement the Food Insecurity Nevada Plan, which will secure supplemental resources for SNAP beneficiaries in the event the shutdown extends beyond October 31.
- To assist with the Food Insecurity Nevada Plan, Governor Lombardo will also engage the Nevada National Guard, who will be ready to assist with food distribution to those in need.
- These food resources will be available to any Nevadans in need of assistance as a result of the federal shutdown, not just SNAP beneficiaries.



*Joe Lombardo*  
GOVERNOR

**How is the State going to fund this supplemental assistance for SNAP beneficiaries and those in need?**

- The State will fund the Food Insecurity Nevada Plan with \$38.8M of state dollars through \$30.2M of the IFC Contingency Fund and through emergency work programs totaling \$8.6M.
- On Friday, October 24, the Governor's Office submitted an emergency work program totaling \$5.9M. On Monday, October 27, the Governor's Office submitted additional emergency work programs totaling \$1.9M. Additionally, the Nevada Department of Agriculture restructured its budget to provide \$800k for the Food Insecurity Nevada Plan.
- At the direction of Governor Lombardo, the Governor's Finance Office has requested a \$30M allocation to fund the Food Insecurity Nevada Plan from the Interim Finance Committee.
- At the direction of Governor Lombardo, the Office of the Military has requested \$200k from the Interim Finance Committee for the deployment of the Nevada National Guard to assist with the food distribution of the Food Insecurity Nevada Plan.
- The Interim Finance Committee will [convene](#) on Thursday, October 30 to consider the request.

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SOUTHERN NEVADA  
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## THE STATE OF NEVADA LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU

INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE

SENATOR MARILYN DONDERO LOOP, *Chair*

### MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

Name of Organization: Interim Finance Committee  
(*Nevada Revised Statutes* [NRS] 218E.400)

Date and Time of Meeting: Thursday, October 30, 2025  
2:00 p.m.

Place of Meeting: Nevada Legislature Office Building, Room 165  
7230 Amigo Street  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

Note: Individuals may observe the meeting and provide testimony through a simultaneous videoconference conducted at the following location:

Legislative Building, Room 4100  
401 South Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

To provide public comment or testimony telephonically, dial (888) 475-4499 on the date of the meeting. When prompted, provide Meeting ID **860 7712 4008**, and then press #. When prompted for a Participant ID, press #.

Additionally, this meeting can be listened to or viewed live over the Internet. The address for the Nevada Legislature's website is <https://www.leg.state.nv.us>. Click on the link: "[Scheduled Events](#)."

#### REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS AND LANGUAGE ACCESS SERVICES

*The Legislature is pleased to make reasonable accommodations and provide language access services to ensure that all people, regardless of ability or native language, have access to the legislative process. To make a request, please email [accessibility@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:accessibility@lcb.state.nv.us) or call (775) 684-6903 as soon as possible before the meeting.*

**Please provide the meeting secretary with electronic or written copies of testimony and visual presentations if you wish to have complete versions included as exhibits with the minutes. Copies of testimony and visual presentations may also be emailed to [IFC@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:IFC@lcb.state.nv.us), mailed to the Fiscal Analysis Division, 401 South Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701, or faxed to (775) 684-6475.**

**Items on this agenda may be taken in a different order than listed. Two or more agenda items may be combined for consideration. An item may be removed from this agenda or discussion relating to an item on this agenda may be delayed at any time.**

A. ROLL CALL.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Public testimony under this agenda item may be presented in person, by phone, or by written comment.

Because of time considerations, each person offering testimony during this period of public comment will be limited to not more than 2 minutes. To call in to provide testimony during this period of public comment in the meeting any time after 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 30, 2025, dial **(888) 475-4499**. When prompted to provide the Meeting ID, please enter **860 7712 4008** and then press #. When prompted for a Participant ID, please press #. To resolve any issues related to dialing in to provide public comment for this meeting, please call (775) 684-6990.

A person may also have comments added to the minutes of the meeting by submitting them in writing, either in addition to testifying or in lieu of testifying. Written comments may be submitted electronically before, during, or after the meeting by email to [IFC@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:IFC@lcb.state.nv.us). You may also mail written documents to the Fiscal Analysis Division, 401 South Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701, or fax them to (775) 684-6475.

C. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT, CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS.

1. Statement of American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund obligations, identified project savings, and work program revision considerations.
2. Status report on the administration, obligation, and expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds (Letter of Intent, 83<sup>rd</sup> [2025] Legislative Session).

D. WORK PROGRAM REVISIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH NRS 353.220(5)(a) - INFORMATIONAL ONLY - APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR BECAUSE OF AN EMERGENCY AS DEFINED IN NRS 353.263 OR FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIFE OR PROPERTY (Reference [List D](#)).

E. STATEMENT OF THE INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE (IFC) CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT BALANCE.

*For Possible  
Action*

F. REQUESTS FOR ALLOCATION FROM THE IFC CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT (GENERAL FUND) PURSUANT TO NRS 353.268 (NOTE: IFC may approve a different amount for an allocation than the amount requested).

1. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR - Office of Finance - Request for an allocation of \$30,000,000 to provide financial assistance to food banks.
2. OFFICE OF THE MILITARY - Request for an allocation of \$200,000 to fund the provision of assistance by state active-duty members of the Nevada National Guard to food banks.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Public testimony under this agenda item may be presented in person, by phone, or by written comment.

Because of time considerations, each person offering testimony during this period of public comment will be limited to not more than 2 minutes. To provide public testimony by telephone during this period of public comment, members of the public may call any time after the Chair announces this second period of public comment on Thursday, October 30, 2025. To call in, dial **(888) 475-4499**. When prompted to provide the Meeting ID, please enter **860 7712 4008** and then press #. When prompted for a Participant ID, please press #. To resolve any issues related to dialing in to provide public comment for this meeting, please call (775) 684-6990.

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## H. ADJOURNMENT.

Notice of this meeting was posted at the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701, at the Nevada Legislature Office Building, 7230 Amigo Street, Las Vegas, NV 89119, and on the Internet through the Nevada Legislature's website at [www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us).

Supporting public material provided to Committee members for this meeting may be requested from Melissa Garvin or Carla Ulrych, Fiscal Secretary, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701, at (775) 684-6821, or by email at [fiscal@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:fiscal@lcb.state.nv.us). Supporting public material for this meeting is/will also be available through the Nevada Legislature's website at [www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us). Click on the link "Scheduled Events," followed by "Interim Finance Committee."