



C I T Y O F
RENO
Memorandum

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

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

This memo serves to provide updated information from the Food Bank of Northern Nevada regarding their emergency food response plan that was shared with the Interim Finance Committee for the Thursday, October 30 meeting. Food Bank of Northern Nevada's response plan is included as Exhibit D.

Additionally, an incorrect press release from the Attorney General's Office was included as Exhibit A in the previous memo entitled "State of Nevada Response to Federal Shutdown Impacts on Nutrition Programs." Exhibit A has been updated with the appropriate press release.

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. Federal government shutdown information for SNAP participants can be found at dss.nv.gov.

Exhibit A: Corrected 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

Exhibit D: Food Bank of Northern Nevada Emergency Food Response Plan

AGPRESS Digest - 28 Oct 2025 - Special issue (#2025-117)

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

Date Tue 2025-10-28 9:36 AM

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

There is 1 message totaling 12216 lines in this issue.

Topics in this special issue:

1. Attorney General Ford Sues Trump Administration Over Threats to Nevadans' SNAP Benefits

Date: Tue, 28 Oct 2025 16:17:08 +0000

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

Subject: Attorney General Ford Sues Trump Administration Over Threats to Nevadans' SNAP Benefits

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Oct. 28, 2025

Contact: John Sadler

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Attorney General Ford Sues Trump Administration Over Threats to Nevadans' SNAP Benefits

Carson City, NV – Today, Nevada Attorney General Aaron D. Ford announced he has filed a lawsuit against the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its Secretary Brooke Rollins for threats to suspend the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which helps more than 40 million Americans, including nearly 500,000 Nevadans, buy food. In filing the lawsuit, Attorney General Ford joins a coalition of 22 other attorneys general and three governors.

Nearly 500,000 Nevadans currently receive around \$90 million a month in SNAP benefits – the entirety of which comes from federal funding.

"The Trump Administration's choice to cut SNAP benefits is not only a deliberate, cruel and extraordinarily harmful decision, it is unlawful. And the reason it cites — the ongoing federal

government shutdown — is inadequate,” said Attorney General Ford. “Contingency funds exist for this exact scenario, yet the USDA has decided to abdicate its responsibility to Nevadans and refused to fund SNAP benefits. I understand the stress of not knowing where your next meal is coming from, because I've lived it. I don't wish that stress on any Nevadan, and I'll fight to be sure nobody in our state goes hungry. I urge Governor Lombardo to do the same and to work with his party and President Trump to ensure that Nevadans receive their SNAP benefits.”

On Oct. 1, 2025, the new federal fiscal year began without an appropriation by Congress to fund the federal government, creating a government shutdown. On Oct. 10, USDA sent a letter to state SNAP agencies saying that if the shutdown continues, there will be insufficient funds to pay full November SNAP benefits for the approximately 42 million individuals across the country that rely on them.

Despite USDA's claim of insufficient funds, the agency has access to billions of dollars in SNAP-specific contingency funds appropriated by Congress for this very purpose. Furthermore, USDA has funded other programs with emergency funds during this shutdown, but has refused to fund SNAP, leaving millions of Americans without the assistance they need to buy food. It is clear the federal government is making a deliberate, illegal and inhumane choice not to fund the crucial SNAP program.

The lapse in benefits will have dire consequences for the health and well-being of millions across the country, who rely on the program to feed themselves and their families. This lapse will also put unnecessary strain on state and local governments and community organizations, as families increasingly rely on emergency services and local food pantries that are already struggling to fill a growing nutrition gap. It will affect school systems and college and university communities, where food insecurity will stand in the way of educating our students. Suspending SNAP benefits will also harm the hundreds of thousands of grocers and merchants that accept SNAP payment for food purchases across the country. USDA has estimated that in a slowing economy, every \$1 in SNAP benefits generates \$1.54 in economic activity.

While the federal government funds and sets the monthly amount of SNAP benefits, states are responsible for administering programs in their state. Suspending SNAP benefits in this manner is both contrary to law and arbitrary and capricious under the Administrative Procedure Act. Where Congress has clearly spoken, providing that SNAP benefits should continue even during a government shutdown, USDA does not have the authority to say otherwise. The coalition will also be filing a temporary restraining order later today asking the court to immediately turn benefits back on.

Joining Attorney General Ford in filing this lawsuit are 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, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin. The Governors of Kansas, Kentucky and Pennsylvania have also joined.

A copy of the complaint is attached.

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End of AGPRESS Digest - 28 Oct 2025 - Special issue (#2025-117)



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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.



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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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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 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, 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. 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, 83rd [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.

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. Supporting public material for this meeting is/will also be available through the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us. Click on the link "Scheduled Events," followed by "Interim Finance Committee."



Emergency Food Response Plan

The Food Bank of Northern Nevada has created a multi-pronged approach to supporting need as an emergency response organization. This is in response to SNAP benefits not being issued for November, for anyone impacted by the government shutdown, and for all Nevadans who are experiencing an elevated level of food insecurity, at a time when costs are high.

Current Situation

The Food Bank of Northern Nevada currently serves approximately 160,000 individuals each month across 13 northern Nevada counties.

While participation in pantry and direct services has remained stable from July through September 2025, we anticipate a significant increase in need as the government shutdown continues. Within our service area, 77,000 SNAP recipients and furloughed federal employees are at risk of losing access to critical food benefits and income.

Projected Impact

Based on prior crisis response experience, FBNN is preparing for a 25% surge in demand—equal to about 40,000 additional individuals seeking food assistance, many for the first time.

This increase is directly tied to the suspension of November SNAP benefits and broader economic strain from the shutdown.

FBNN's Emergency Response Plan

FBNN is launching a multi-pronged emergency response to ensure families have access to nutritious food throughout the shutdown.

Accelerated Food Sourcing and Procurement

Our Food Sourcing team is actively securing food from all approved vendors and additional donors.

Food deliveries began Monday, October 27, 2025, and will continue throughout November.

We are ensuring that all available funds are directed toward maximizing food purchases for immediate community distribution.

When necessary, we will use the Emergency Food Response Plan funding to help cover the additional costs to increase storage capacity as needed.

Expanded Food Distribution through Partner Network

FBNN will channel this food through our 145 partner agencies and more than 40 school-based pantries.

Starting the week of November 3, 2025, partners will be encouraged to extend hours and days of operation, including more evening and weekend options for working families. Initially, 40 pantries will expand service, with more added as additional food becomes available.

Enhanced Mobile Food Distributions

We will add food to the 40+ mobile distributions FBNN already operates across our service area, ensuring access to both perishable and nonperishable items for families in need.

Special “Pop-Up” Food Distributions

When existing resources are not sufficient, FBNN will stand up special or pop-up distributions.

The first event will take place Saturday, November 1, 2025, in Reno/Sparks, with several partner organizations also hosting same-day events to expand access. Additional pop-up distributions will be scheduled as needed throughout the shutdown.

Comprehensive Meal Support

We are working with our vendors to provide complete meal menu options, including frozen proteins, fresh produce, and shelf-stable foods.

Community Communication and Outreach

FBNN will use all communication channels—website, social media, community partners, and local media—to share accurate, up-to-date information on where and how families can access food.

Our goal is to reduce fear, confusion, and uncertainty during this challenging time.

Where to Find Help

Neighborhood pantries: These community sites offer pantry staples with a simple check-in and regular hours.

Mobile Harvest: Mobile Harvest provides fresh produce to convenient community locations in neighborhoods across our service area.

Meals for Kids: Our Kids Café program brings free, healthy meals served after school in Washoe County.

National Guard Assistance

The Food Bank of Northern Nevada is requesting a total of 759 hours of guard service hours:

The support will be utilized in the following ways:

25 personnel in early November to pack CSFP boxes (6-hours)

25 personnel on/about end of Nov/early Dec to pack boxes (9-hours)

2-3 personnel to support warehouse operations for 32 hrs/wk for four weeks

Closing Message

The Food Bank of Northern Nevada stands ready as an emergency response organization to meet the needs of our community.

We are committed to ensuring no one in Northern Nevada goes hungry during the shutdown. We are deeply grateful to our partners, donors, and volunteers whose support makes this rapid response possible.

For more information please contact:

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Shane Piccinini, Government Relations Manager, spiccinini@fbnn.org

Nicole Lamboley, President & CEO nlamboley@fbnn.org