

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATOR ST. JEAN TARD**

Re: Calling for Erie County to Address the Loss of Federal SNAP Support

WHEREAS, in 2022, 147,427 Erie County residents, out of a county population of 950,602, relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to afford food, according to the U.S. Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has warned states that it will have insufficient funds to continue SNAP payments if the shutdown persists, marking what could be the first interruption of benefits in decades; and

WHEREAS, Governor Kathy Hochul has stated that New York State cannot use state funds as a full backup to replace federal SNAP funding if the federal shutdown continues; and

WHEREAS, New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance Commissioner Barbara C. Guinn warned that halting monthly SNAP benefits “would have an immediate and devastating impact”; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Erie County year-end budget amendments established a County Share Grant Federal Aid Cut Reserve of \$2.5 million to help offset sudden shortfalls caused by federal funding cuts; and

WHEREAS, while Erie County cannot replace the entire federal SNAP allocation, it can and must take immediate action to prevent Erie County residents from going hungry; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity is not a partisan or isolated issue but one that affects every community in Erie County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body recognizes that the Trump Administration’s failure to uphold its SNAP commitment poses a direct threat to the well-being of Erie County residents; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body calls on the Erie County Executive and the Department of Social Services to use the Federal Aid Cut Reserve to provide emergency food assistance if federal SNAP funding ceases, and to work with New York State to pool and stretch resources to meet urgent local needs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body commits to developing additional local capacity through budget adjustments or supplemental appropriations to expand food assistance if the crisis deepens; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body affirms that when people in our community are hungry, there is no higher priority than feeding them, and Erie County must do everything it can right now, while planning to do even more in the months ahead; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Erie County Executive, the Erie County Department of Social Services, and the Erie County Division of Budget and Management.