



EC LOG OCT 23 '25 11:21

COUNTY OF ERIE
Department of Social Services

October 22, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin St. – 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

RE: Federal Shutdown and SNAP Funding

Honorable Members:

This letter is to provide clarification on the use of federal funding in Resolution INTRO 19-7 submitted for the legislative session on Thursday, October 23, 2025.

While the impending crisis facing Erie County is a dire threat to the over 78,000 households whose SNAP funding will be delayed by Congress, the Department of Social Services is unable to shift any funding directly to those households.

The authority of ECDSS is limited to the administration of the SNAP program. We make eligibility determinations and maintain the case record. All direct to EBT infrastructure is controlled by a process between New York State and the Federal government. Further, if the County provides direct assistance to families in the form of checks or cash cards those funds could be considered as income and disrupt household eligibility for other benefits programs or inadvertently entangle them in welfare recoupment cases.

The Department of Social Services is currently making plans with the Office of the County Executive to respond to this crisis. The details of that plan to use emergency social services programs will be released publicly later this week and our department will be in touch with this Honorable body to make program adjustments as necessary to respond to the emergency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Szewc". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent than the last.

Daniel Szewc
First Deputy Commissioner
Erie County Department of Social Services

cc: Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz