



# CITY OF FLAGSTAFF

## FLAGSTAFF CITY COUNCIL

211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

Main Line: 928-213-2000

Website: <https://www.flagstaff.az.gov>

November 5, 2025

Senator Mark Kelly  
United States Senate  
Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Ruben Gallego  
United States Senate  
Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Eli Crane  
United States House of Representatives  
307 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Honorable Representatives,

As proposed federal cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) move forward, Flagstaff community organizations are reporting sharp increases in food insecurity and requests for emergency assistance. This update provides an overview of the current local impacts and the urgent needs facing our region.

Flagstaff faces distinct economic challenges that make SNAP support especially vital. Our cost of living is among the highest in northern Arizona, driven by housing and food prices that far exceed average wages. Many residents work in seasonal, service, and tourism-related industries, where income can fluctuate significantly. For these working families, SNAP fills a critical gap—ensuring consistent access to nutritious food for children, seniors, and other vulnerable community members.

These challenges are compounded by the ongoing federal government shutdown, during which federal employees are facing uncertainty about whether they will receive back pay. This has added to financial strain for many households, further increasing demand on local food assistance programs.

Local food providers are already feeling the strain. The Flagstaff Family Food Center reports that food lines have lengthened substantially, with a 30% increase in demand in a single week following delays in federal assistance payments during the government shutdown. In October alone, the center distributed over 51,500 meals, far surpassing average numbers even during historically slower periods.

Survey data underscore the depth of this reliance:

- 53% of clients reside in Flagstaff, with others traveling from across northeastern Arizona.
- 32% of respondents visit food distribution sites weekly, and another 18% rely on these services one to two times per month.
- 67% of clients report that half or more of their total food supply comes from these local programs.

To meet this surge in need, the Flagstaff Family Food Center is calling on the community to contribute non-perishable foods such as canned goods, rice, peanut butter, baby formula, and holiday items like stuffing, as well as grocery gift cards to support families during the upcoming season.

Our community is doing its best to respond, but local resources cannot replace the stabilizing power of federal nutrition assistance. We urge your continued attention to the consequences of SNAP reductions on rural and high-cost areas like Flagstaff and your support for policies that protect access to essential food programs.

Sincerely,

Becky Daggett,  
Mayor, City of Flagstaff, on behalf of the Flagstaff City Council