



Essex County Office of the Manager

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October 29, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Essex County Advises Residents of Potential SNAP Funding Delay: Resources for Food

ELIZABETHTOWN, NY — Essex County Government is informing residents who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), that there may be a delay in benefit distribution beginning November 1, 2025. This change is due to possible administrative delays in the authorization of federal funds.

Essex County officials are emphasizing transparency and proactive support to help the community prepare.

Michael Mascarenas, County Manager, stated, “While we await the certainty of federal funding, Essex County remains focused on ensuring residents have access to accurate, up-to-date information about local food resources. Our priority is clear communication so families can easily identify community options that support their nutritional needs.”

“The Department of Social Services is committed to supporting the federally mandated nutrition assistance program for all eligible Essex County residents. We are proactively coordinating with community partners to establish and disseminate alternative food resources, and we encourage residents to access the guidance compiled by the County during this period of possible federal funding delay,” stated Angie Allen, Commissioner of the Essex County Department of Social Services.

Linda Beers, Public Health Director at the Essex County Health Department, added, "Safeguarding sustained access to adequate nutrition is an important public health priority. By proactively informing the public and connecting local aid options, we aim to support residents in maintaining wellness and security throughout this transition period. This work is supported by the Well Fed Essex County Collaborative, a dedicated group that has been convening for over seven years to fight food insecurity and ensure all residents have access to healthy, nutritious food."

Impact on Essex County Residents:

The need for this program is reflected in the county's demographics. Data compiled by the Essex County Health Department and partners shows:

- **Economic Vulnerability:** In 2023, the percentage of individuals living below the Federal Poverty Level in Essex County was 13%, higher than the U.S. rate of 11.1%.

- Over 817 children under the age of 18 receive SNAP benefits.
- 1,295 adults between the ages of 19 and 60 receive SNAP.
- 874 adults over the age of 60 receive SNAP.
 - Out of the 37,000 residents in Essex County, 9,300 or 24.9% are age 65+
- The ALICE Threshold: (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households, whose incomes are above the Federal Poverty Limit but still below the basic cost of living. Households below the ALICE Threshold are unable to afford basic needs, despite being employed.
 - In Essex County, 29% of households fall below the ALICE Threshold, compared to 33% statewide in New York.

Program Updates:

SNAP households will be notified by November 1, 2025, on the status of November SNAP benefits. Updates will be posted on the [OTDA website](#), [NYC ACCESS HRA](#), [myBenefits](#), ebtEDGE, and through text messages to SNAP households.

County Action: Compiling Alternative Resources

To ensure residents maintain continuity of support during this time, the County is actively compiling and distributing information on alternative resources. This comprehensive guide, along with updates and resources, will be posted on the official [Essex County government page](#).

Food Resources: Locations for local food pantries, community dinners, and other established food assistance programs across the county are listed at [Essex County Well Fed](#).

Medicaid Members can receive assistance connecting to social needs services.

- If you are enrolled in Medicaid and you or your family are looking for support with food, there may be help available to you.
- Medicaid Members can reach out to a Social Care Network to discuss their social needs. Visit healthyalliance.org/member or call 518-379-0233.

How the Community Can Help

If you are able and wish to support your neighbors during this period, please contact your local food pantry to inquire about their most pressing needs, whether it be food donations, volunteer time, or financial support.

Essex County is dedicated to providing residents with the necessary information and resources to support their wellbeing. Residents are encouraged to monitor official county channels for the latest updates on the status of federal benefits.

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