



## Essex County Office of the Manager

7551 Court Street - PO Box 217 - Elizabethtown, New York 12932  
Telephone (518) 873-3333 - Fax (518) 873-3339

Michael Mascarenas, County Manager  
[michael.mascarenas@essexcountyny.gov](mailto:michael.mascarenas@essexcountyny.gov)

James Dougan, Deputy County Manager  
[james.dougan@essexcountyny.gov](mailto:james.dougan@essexcountyny.gov)

November 5, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Essex County Board of Supervisors Approves Additional \$20,000 to Strengthen Local Food Pantries Funds to be Distributed Using Fair and Targeted Formula*

**ELIZABETHTOWN, NY** – The Essex County Board of Supervisors has approved an additional \$20,000 for food pantries serving the county, announcing the decision on Monday, November 3. The funding will provide support to local food pantries amid delays in the availability of federal funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The funds will be drawn from the County's contingency reserves (money reserved for necessary, unbudgeted expenses). This means the aid requires no new taxes or budget increase. The model eliminates the need for food pantries to apply or submit paperwork, minimizing delays and overhead.

The Board adopted a targeted formula that distributes the funding to food pantries in two parts:

**Base Distribution:** \$10,000 divided evenly among the food pantries serving residents in the county to provide consistent support for every community.

**Need-Based Distribution:** \$10,000 allocated according to the number of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients in each area, ensuring that funds are directed where demand is already documented.

County data shows that more than 2,900 residents currently use SNAP benefits. Of these recipients, 30% are age 61 or older, and 27% are under age 18. This demographic breakdown is relevant as the County's percentage of residents age 65+ is 24.9%, meaning nearly a quarter of the County's total population is aging adults—the highest rate in the region.

Michael Mascarenas, Essex County Manager, stated: “Using existing reserves and a straightforward formula allows these funds to move quickly without adding bureaucracy or creating a new program. We are committed to administrative efficiency, making sure resources get directly to the front lines without delay.”

“We know many of our neighbors and families are facing tough times, and the Board acted quickly to provide food pantries with the support they need right now,” said Shaun Gilliland, Chair of the Essex County Board of Supervisors. “This funding helps strengthen operations across every town and hamlet in Essex County, giving communities the resources they need during a period of increased demand. It’s a supplemental boost, not long-term operational funding, but every bit makes a difference for the people we serve.”

Angie Allen, Commissioner of the Essex County Department of Social Services, explained, “By using current SNAP data, we’re able to direct funding straight to the food pantries serving the largest number of SNAP recipients. This targeted approach removes the guesswork, delivers resources where they’re needed most, and keeps the process efficient.”

County officials are finalizing individual allocation amounts and expect funds to be released early next week.

###