



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER

2025-09

Whereas, the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (“SNAP”) serves as the foundational nutrition-safety-net for households across Chicago, providing millions of dollars of purchasing power every month for groceries and other essential food items, and thereby sustaining food access for low-income families, older adults, people with disabilities, and children;

Whereas, within the City of Chicago, approximately 340,000 households rely on SNAP benefits, representing a disproportionately high concentration of SNAP participation within the region;

Whereas, SNAP recipients in Chicago include large numbers of children, older adults, people living with disabilities, and families in historically disinvested Black and brown communities. Any decrease in SNAP benefits will further exacerbate racial and economic disparities in food access, health outcomes, and economic stability;

Whereas, the reduction or elimination of SNAP benefits poses an immediate threat to food security for thousands of Chicago residents: families may face forced trade-offs between food and rent or utilities and deterioration of health and well-being;

Whereas, in addition to the direct impact on households, SNAP serves as an engine of economic activity in the food-retail sector: in Illinois alone, 9,379 authorized SNAP retailers redeemed more than **\$5.487 billion** in 2023, support which helps keep independent grocers, convenience stores, and neighborhood food outlets viable and accessible to underserved communities;

Whereas, SNAP functions as an economic multiplier. Every \$1.00 of SNAP benefit generates between \$1.50 and 1.80 in economic activity. SNAP dollars are quickly spent in local stores and markets, helping families afford food and other essentials, which in turn boosts sales for farmers, producers, distributors, and retailers, supporting jobs and overall economic activity. This spending creates a “multiplier

effect” that strengthens communities and helps stabilize the economy during downturns.

Whereas, a reduction in SNAP redemptions threatens the economic viability of these retailers: recent analysis warns that cuts may force store closures, reduce employment in food retail, shrink access to fresh food in neighborhoods already classified as food deserts, and produce downstream harm to the broader local economy;

Whereas, the economic harm caused by the reduction or elimination of SNAP benefits has been further compounded in neighborhoods targeted by escalated federal immigration enforcement operations;

Whereas, local retailers in these communities have reported sales declines of between 50 and 70 percent since the onset of intensified federal immigration activity, threatening neighborhood economic stability and access to essential goods;

Whereas new federal legislation expands work/training requirements, raises state cost-sharing, and reduces benefit levels for SNAP, and as a result the Congressional Budget Office estimates a loss of approximately 2.4 million participants in an average month, which will reduce food purchasing power for millions of low-income households, increase food insecurity, degrade health outcomes, and shift costs to states and local health systems.

Whereas the cumulative effect of these policies undermines neighborhood economic vitality, reduces sales and tax revenue, and weakens community institutions that form the foundation of Chicago’s diverse local economy.

Whereas, in light of all of the foregoing, immediate and coordinated action is necessary to protect the food security of vulnerable residents, maintain neighborhood-based food retail infrastructure, and mobilize the resources of the City in partnership with community-based organizations, the State of Illinois, Cook County, and the private sector.

WHEREAS, Both Illinois law (65 ILCS 5/11-1-6) and the City of Chicago's Municipal Code (Section 2-4-110) vest the Mayor with the power and authority to declare and respond to a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary and appropriate for the Mayor to exercise authority set forth in this Order and take all such steps and direct all such further actions as are needed to address this emergency; now, therefore,

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order and declare:

Section 1: NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a local state of emergency is hereby declared in the City of Chicago, effective immediately, due to the combined impact of the reduction or elimination of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and the escalation of federal immigration enforcement activities; both of which threaten the health, safety, and economic stability of Chicago residents, and destabilize local businesses and neighborhoods.

Section 2: All relevant City departments and agencies shall prioritize coordination of outreach, logistical support, and relief efforts related to SNAP benefit disruptions and economic de-stabilization related to immigration enforcement, including but not limited to:

- rapid communication to SNAP-receiving households about their options, rights, and supplemental resources;
- support to food pantries, emergency food providers, community organizations and neighborhood grocers including recruiting volunteers, amplifying mutual aid networks and assisting with logistical coordination;
- monitoring of neighborhood retailers dependent on SNAP redemption to identify early warning of closures and activation of business-retention or support interventions;
- monitoring impacted neighborhoods to assess food insecurity, store closures, and health outcomes in real time;

Section 3: The Office of the Mayor in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, the Department of Family & Support Services, and other relevant entities shall prepare a weekly status report, describing impacts, response efforts, gaps, and urgent needs in each affected community area of the city.

Section 4: The Chief Procurement Officer is directed to exercise the emergency purchasing authority set forth in Section 2-92-644 of the Municipal Code, in addition to all other available procurement pathways, to the maximum extent feasible to address this declared emergency.

Dated this 15th day of November 2025.



Mayor



Andrea M. Valencia
11-17-25

Chicago City Clerk-Council Div.
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