

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 28, 2025
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**Hoosier Hills Food Bank Information Summary, CEO Statement and Response
Plan on Interruption of SNAP Benefits**

What we know:

- The federal government is currently shut down because FY26 appropriation bills have not been passed.
- WIC is funded in November and TEFAP orders that were already placed for delivery in November should be received by food banks.
- The USDA has announced that they will not use SNAP contingency funds to pay November benefits and that states will not be reimbursed if they choose to cover benefits themselves. November benefits will not be paid until the shutdown ends.
- Over 16,000 Hoosiers in HHFB’s service area received SNAP benefits in September and unless the shutdown ends, they will not see their November benefits – at least not on time. It is expected that benefits will be paid once the government reopens but it is unclear what type of delays will take place once the state is able to begin paying benefits again. The first benefits impacted would be those scheduled to be paid on November 5.

**SNAP in HHFB Service Area -
September 2025**

Source: IN FSSA Monthly Management Report

<u>County</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>HH</u>	<u>Individuals</u>
Brown	\$ 122,967.00	361	667
Lawrence	\$ 646,411.00	1772	3618
Martin	\$ 110,419.00	336	645
Monroe	\$ 1,524,796.00	4133	7697
Orange	\$ 301,820.00	868	1767
Owen	\$ 367,707.00	921	1900
	\$ 3,074,120.00	8391	16294

Statement from HHFB CEO Julio Alonso:

“With food security already at its highest rates in a decade and over 40% of our partner agencies reporting that numbers are still increasing, the government shutdown is placing an extreme burden on food insecure Hoosiers and on the charitable food assistance system. We are facing a potential crisis that will change the dynamics of our discussion from food insecurity to actual, literal hunger. We don’t engage in partisan politics. We call on our leaders to also put them aside and come together for the health, safety and welfare of all Americans, but especially those already struggling. We

earnestly and urgently ask our federal representatives to reopen the government and ensure that crucial programs like SNAP are not interrupted.”

“To our partner agencies and neighbors facing food insecurity and loss of benefits we acknowledge the stress and worry you are experiencing, and we commit to doing all we can to relieve it. With the support of the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County and other donors, we’ve put a plan together to help get through November. We are a strong and resilient network of agencies supported by caring and generous communities. We will rise to this occasion together.”

HHFB’s Emergency Response Plan:

Hoosier Hills Food Bank will spend nearly a quarter million dollars on food purchases in November to assist its partner agencies in providing Thanksgiving food and in helping any neighbors impacted by the government shutdown.

The food bank will purchase ten semi-truck loads of food in November including 1 truck of peanut butter, 1 truck of frozen turkeys, 2 trucks of fresh potatoes, three trucks of pre-packed non-perishable food boxes and three trucks of pre-packed fresh produce boxes in partnership with Fresh Connect Central. The food will support HHFB’s mobile pantries and its 84 partner food pantries, shelters and kitchens in six counties. The project will involve distribution of about 330,000 pounds of food, the equivalent of 275,000 meals. In addition, the food bank will continue its regular purchasing of local produce and eggs.

The total cost of this food project in November is estimated to be \$249,782 and the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County has stepped up to provide \$100,000 in support. In addition, HHFB has secured \$146,000 in funding including \$25,000 from Smithville Charitable Foundation, \$11,500 from Feeding America, \$6,400 from Monroe County’s Sophia Travis Community Grant program and funds from other private and anonymous grants and continues working to raise more support for further purchases to shore up ongoing food supplies.

“This is a time that calls for bold action. Food insecurity is already at the highest levels in a decade and we and our partners are already seeing very high levels of need. We now expect that to increase significantly if SNAP benefits are interrupted. We didn’t have enough food before and now we need even more,” said HHFB CEO Julio Alonso. “We tend to talk about this problem in terms of food insecurity, but what we’re facing now is people who will experience actual hunger. It can’t be allowed. We can only hope that the government will resolve its differences and reopen sometime soon, or December will be even worse.”

“We’re here to be on the front lines when times are most difficult and that’s exactly what we intend to do. But I want to be clear. The charitable food assistance system cannot eliminate food insecurity alone. SNAP provides 9 meals for every one that we do. On top of already high levels of need that always escalate during the holidays, we are trying to replace over \$3 million in benefits in our six county service area that support food for

over 16,000 people. It's not sustainable. And that's not just money going to people to buy food, it's \$3 million worth of economic activity that will not happen. The steps we're taking now should help to temporarily ease some pain but we need to do more and we need continued community support to do that. And most importantly, the federal government must reopen so that benefits like SNAP are not interrupted any further."

"We're grateful to our many partners, especially the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County, which has stepped up in a big way to help us address this crisis," said Alonso. "Only as a community can we get through this, and we still need help to do so, but make no mistake – we will get through this."

For information on where to find food assistance, please refer to:

<https://hhfoodbank.org/find-food/>

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