

Citizen Action Letter: Urge Oklahoma to Stop the SNAP Crisis

[Date]

The Honorable [Full Name]

[Title – Governor | Speaker of the House | President Pro Tempore of the Senate]

State Capitol Building

2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.

Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear [Governor Stitt / Speaker McCall / President Pro Tempore Treat],

I am writing to urge you to take immediate action to stop the deepening hunger crisis now unfolding across Oklahoma. It is November, and Oklahoma families have not received any of their November Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to date. USDA has indicated that only about half of the usual monthly benefit will be paid for November, but the timing of even those partial payments is uncertain because states must implement significant system changes that could take weeks or longer. Every day that passes without relief makes it harder for children, elders, and working families to put food on the table.

This is no longer a warning: it is a catastrophe in progress. Oklahoma has the means to act. The State currently holds more than \$3.69 billion in total reserves, including \$1.32 billion in the Rainy Day Fund, funds specifically intended for emergencies. There is no emergency more urgent than preventing hunger for over 922,000 Oklahomans who rely on SNAP.

Tribal governments, local nonprofits, and faith communities have already stepped up. The Cherokee Nation, for example, has declared a food emergency and announced a \$6.5 million crisis-response package, including \$4.5 million in direct payments to citizens on SNAP and more than \$1.25 million for food banks and nonprofit partners. The Nation has since expanded this program to include Cherokee citizens on SNAP across all 50 states, bringing its total response to more than \$11 million. These actions reflect a deep commitment to protecting vulnerable families – but even with such unprecedented efforts, no tribal or local government can fill the gap for every Oklahoman in need.

I respectfully urge you to:

1. Declare the SNAP payment crisis a statewide emergency under Oklahoma law.
2. Use a portion of the Rainy Day Fund or state surplus to provide direct cash assistance or state-funded deposits onto existing EBT cards for families missing SNAP benefits.
3. Communicate clearly with the public about how and when this emergency relief will reach Oklahoma households.

Every dollar spent to keep Oklahomans fed is an investment in our health, our economy, and our shared values. Federal delays should not force our neighbors to go hungry when the State has the power and resources to intervene.

Oklahoma families are counting on your leadership. Please act now to prevent this crisis from continuing and ensure that our State stands with the people it serves.

Respectfully,

[Your Name]

[Address]

[City, State ZIP]

[Email]

[Phone]