



# MATTHEW J. PLATKIN

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## *Attorney General*



*Relied Upon by 42 Million Americans*

**For Immediate Release: October 28, 2025**

Office of the Attorney General

– Matthew J. Platkin, *Attorney General*

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betrayal of America's most vulnerable working- and middle-class families."

"New Jersey families are being used as political pawns by the Trump Administration, which is illegally suspending SNAP and the critical assistance it provides to residents who are struggling with food insecurity," **said Attorney General Platkin.** "This is especially devastating in the month of November, when families are gathering and demands on food banks and pantries are heaviest. We are standing up for families across our state and fighting to ensure that they continue to have access to food for their households. Our coalition is suing the Administration to stop this clear attempt at subverting the authority of Congress and the extreme harms that it would cause in New Jersey."

On October 1, 2025, the new federal fiscal year began without an appropriation by Congress to fund the federal government, creating a "government shutdown." On October 10, USDA sent a letter to state SNAP agencies saying that if the shutdown continues, there will be insufficient funds to pay full November SNAP benefits for the approximately 42 million individuals across the country who rely on them. On October 24, 2025 USDA confirmed its position that effective November 1, 2025, it will suspend all November 2025 SNAP allotments.

Despite USDA's claim of insufficient funds, the agency has access to billions of dollars in SNAP-specific contingency funds appropriated by Congress for this very purpose. Furthermore, USDA has funded

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\$1.54 in economic activity.

In New Jersey, as of August 2025, there were approximately 812,966 persons receiving NJ SNAP, representing 436,452 households, 340,425 children, and 176,706 elderly individuals. The State is also home to nearly 5,700 authorized SNAP retailers.

While the federal government funds and sets the monthly amount of SNAP benefits, states are responsible for administering programs in their state. Suspending SNAP benefits in this manner is both contrary to law and arbitrary and capricious under the Administrative Procedure Act. Where Congress has clearly spoken, providing that SNAP benefits should continue even during a government shutdown, USDA does not have the authority to say otherwise. The coalition will also be filing a temporary restraining order later today asking the court to immediately turn benefits back on.

Joining Attorney General Platkin in filing this lawsuit are the attorneys general of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia. The Governors of Kansas, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania have also joined.

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