

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 401

WHEREAS, beginning on October 1, 2025, the federal government of the United States began a shutdown of numerous critical government services; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing federal shutdown has resulted in a lapse of federal funding critical to administering benefits programs at the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA"), including the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"); and

WHEREAS, starting on Saturday, November 1, 2025, all residents of the State of New Jersey who are enrolled in SNAP will not receive their November federal benefits, which enable them to purchase basic food supplies; and

WHEREAS, SNAP provides essential nourishment to some of the most vulnerable New Jersey residents, including children, individuals with disabilities, and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, as of October 1, 2025, more than 800,000 New Jerseyans rely on SNAP benefits to meet their basic nutritional needs; and

WHEREAS, almost half of the 800,000 New Jerseyans who rely on SNAP are children; and

WHEREAS, one in three are individuals with a disability; and

WHEREAS, one in five are over the age of 60; and

WHEREAS, a lapse in SNAP benefits will make it difficult or impossible for these residents to obtain nutritional assistance and, as a result, they may go hungry; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity is one of the key drivers of health, and lack of access to affordable, nutritious food contributes to preventable illness, increased healthcare costs, and diminished well-being;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PHILIP D. MURPHY, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. There is hereby established the Task Force on the Federal Suspension of SNAP Benefits (the "Task Force"), which will report directly to the Office of the Governor, and which will be responsible for coordinating New Jersey's response to the acute food insecurity

crisis caused by the federal government shutdown and USDA's failure to fund SNAP.

2. The Task Force shall consist of: (i) a representative of the Office of the Governor, who shall serve as the Chairperson; (ii) the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture; (iii) the Executive Director of the Office of the Food Security Advocate; (iv) the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services; (v) the Commissioner of the Department of Health; (vi) the Commissioner of the Department of Education; (vii) the Secretary of the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education; (viii) the Superintendent of New Jersey State Police; (ix) the Adjutant General and Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; (x) the Executive Director of the Governor's Disaster Recovery Office; (xi) the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs; (xii) the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families; (xiii) the Attorney General; (xiv) the State Treasurer; and (xv) the Chief Executive Officer of the Economic Development Authority, or their designee.

3. The Governor may, as determined to be appropriate, appoint additional members to the Task Force. All members of the Task Force shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor and without compensation.

4. The Task Force shall organize as soon as practicable and shall convene at least as often as requested by the Chairperson until, in the Chairperson's determination, convenings are no longer needed.

5. The Task Force shall closely monitor the consequences of the failure to fund SNAP to determine how best to deploy available resources, in communication with all twenty-one County Boards of Social Services and State-funded Emergency Food Organizations.

6. The Task Force shall make publicly and broadly available a list of resources that help residents who have had their SNAP benefits cut obtain access to affordable or free food.

7. The Task Force shall make recommendations regarding how to leverage and mobilize State and non-governmental resources and partners to scale residents' access to affordable or free food.

8. The Task Force shall make recommendations to mitigate the

devastating health and economic impacts of the federal suspension of SNAP benefits on residents and on the food industry, including farmers, grocers, and farmers' markets.

9. The Task Force is authorized to call upon any department, office, division, or agency of this State to supply it with data or other information or assistance available to such department, office, division, or agency as the Task Force deems necessary to execute its duties under this Order. Each Executive Branch department, office, division, and agency is hereby required, to the extent not inconsistent with law, to cooperate fully with the Task Force and to furnish such assistance on as timely a basis as is necessary to accomplish the purpose of this Order. The Task Force may consult with experts and other knowledgeable individuals in the public or private sector on any aspect of its mission. Any records or data produced to the Task Force pursuant to this paragraph shall be exempt from production under New Jersey's Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 to -13.

10. The Task Force shall be purely advisory in nature and shall provide advice to the Governor and other Executive Branch departments and agencies as requested.

11. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to supersede any federal, State, or local law.

12. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
31st day of October,
Two Thousand and Twenty-Five,
and of the Independence of the
United States, the Two Hundred
and Fiftieth.

[seal]

/s/ Philip D. Murphy
Governor

Attest:

/s/ Kate E. McDonnell

Chief Counsel to the Governor