



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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October 28, 2025

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin

Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia
PO Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

The Honorable Danny Avula

Commissioner, Virginia Department of Social Services
5600 Cox Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060

The Honorable Janet Vestal Kelly

Secretary of Health and Human Resources
PO Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Subject: Urgent Funding Concern – Continued Operations of Local Departments of Social Services During Federal Government Shutdown

Dear Governor Youngkin, Commissioner Avula, and Secretary Kelly:

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) has informed local departments of social services (LDSS) that, if the federal government shutdown continues beyond **October 31, 2025**, reimbursements to localities for **November expenses** may not be provided, depending on the duration of the shutdown.

As you know, local departments are reimbursed each month by VDSS for the prior month's expenditures. For example, **November 2025 operating costs would typically be reimbursed in December 2025**. VDSS has used available **state general fund dollars** to fully fund LDSS

reimbursements for October; however, there are **insufficient funds remaining** to cover reimbursements for November should the shutdown persist.

This situation poses a **serious fiscal and operational challenge** for local social services agencies across the Commonwealth. Without timely reimbursement, local departments—many of which operate on limited reserves—may be unable to meet payroll obligations, pay vendors, or maintain critical public assistance and protective service operations.

Given the potential severity of this disruption, I respectfully urge VDSS and the Administration to **pursue immediate contingency measures** to ensure the continued functioning of LDSS throughout any ongoing federal shutdown. Specifically:

1. **Request a line of credit from the Virginia Department of the Treasury** to temporarily fund LDSS operations during the federal funding lapse. In prior federal shutdowns, states have been reimbursed retroactively once the federal government reopened.
2. **If a line of credit is not feasible**, seek **authorization from the General Assembly** to reallocate state funds from non-essential programs to sustain LDSS operations during the shutdown period.

It is imperative that local departments remain **fully operational** during this time, particularly given the potential delay or interruption of **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** benefits. Over **850,000 Virginians** rely on SNAP benefits each month. Should benefit issuance be delayed or suspended, LDSS will serve as the **first point of contact** for citizens in need of crisis assistance, emergency food resources, and other essential support.

Local departments are the Commonwealth's frontline safety net for children, families, and vulnerable adults. We cannot fulfill that mission without stable operational funding, especially during periods of national fiscal uncertainty.

I respectfully request that the Administration take **swift and proactive measures** to ensure LDSS can continue uninterrupted operations and to reassure citizens that vital social service programs will remain accessible.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for your continued commitment to supporting Virginia's local social services network.

Sincerely,

Steve Catalano, Chairman
Greene County Board of Supervisors