



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER #278

Relating to Declaring a State of Emergency Due to the Ongoing Federal Government Shutdown

WHEREAS, the ongoing federal government shutdown is jeopardizing access to critical resources and programs that are necessary for the health, safety, wellbeing, and economic security of Wisconsinites, including basic food assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, early childhood education programs through Head Start, and access to affordable healthcare through the Affordable Care Act;

WHEREAS, due to the federal government shutdown and a recent directive by the Trump Administration, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as FoodShare in Wisconsin, is in jeopardy, as regular funding for the program is set to end on November 1 unless the Trump Administration takes urgent action to extend benefits using available federal resources;

WHEREAS, FoodShare is a key part of Wisconsin's efforts to address and prevent hunger by supplementing the food budget of nearly 700,000 Wisconsinites, including nearly 270,000 kids and 110,000 individuals over the age of 60, who rely on the program to afford basic necessities;

WHEREAS, a preventable but sudden and total loss of Wisconsin FoodShare benefits threatens the food security of hundreds of thousands of Wisconsinites and will cause kids, families, and seniors to go hungry, while severely impacting the livelihoods of so many others across the state, including farmers, producers, local small businesses, grocers, and food pantries, among others;

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's farmers, producers, and agricultural industries, which are already struggling due to President Donald Trump's erratic tariffs, chaotic trade wars, and reckless policy decisions, rely on steady and consistent markets, and a potential lapse in federal FoodShare funding will only further exacerbate the challenges facing farmers, threaten agricultural operations, and negatively impact Wisconsin's food supply chain, which helps put food on tables across the country and the world over;

WHEREAS, other critical programs for families, such as Wisconsin Head Start, will be ceasing services in two regions in November due to a lack of federal funding caused by the federal government shutdown, which will leave more than 275 kids without care and programming and more than 80 staff without paychecks;

WHEREAS, the state of Wisconsin every day continues to monitor new and troubling impacts caused by the ongoing federal government shutdown and how it will continue to affect kids, families, seniors, veterans, and communities across the state;

WHEREAS, at a time when working families are already struggling to make ends meet, elected officials at every level should be focused on making sure Wisconsinites have access to the basic food and groceries, child care for their kids so they can get to work, and affordable healthcare coverage that they need to be well rather than making these critical resources harder to find and more expensive;

WHEREAS, in the absence of legislative action at either the state and federal levels to address the ongoing federal government shutdown, the state of Wisconsin has been using every tool and resource available to support Wisconsinites through both the avoidable and unavoidable impacts of the federal government shutdown, and must continue doing so; and

WHEREAS, to protect the health, well-being, and livelihoods of people across the state, the state of Wisconsin must take additional actions to ensure Wisconsin's kids, families, seniors, and communities have access to the support and resources they need.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TONY EVERS, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this state, and specifically by Sections 100.305, 323.10, and 323.12 of the Wisconsin Statutes, do hereby:

1. Proclaim that a State of Emergency exists throughout the state of Wisconsin.
2. Direct all state agencies to review their administrative rules and, if necessary, suspend the provisions of any administrative rule if the secretary of that agency determines that strict compliance with the rule would prevent, hinder, or delay necessary actions to respond to the emergency.
3. Certify that a period of abnormal economic disruption exists in the state of Wisconsin, and direct the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to enforce prohibitions against price gouging.
4. Direct all state agencies to take any and all necessary and appropriate measures to address this emergency, including making sure relevant resources are readily available and accessible to Wisconsinites, such as information on emergency aid and consumer protection.
5. Direct all state agencies to assist the state, as appropriate, in the state's ongoing response effort.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Executive Residence in the Village of Maple Bluff this thirty-first day of October in the year of two thousand twenty-five.



TONY EVERS
Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State