

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Resolution*

**TO PROTECT FNS FROM IMPACT OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS**

- WHEREAS,** local governments are the frontline of providing services to citizens through local, state, and federal programs; and
- WHEREAS,** county governments rely on the support of federal dollars to deliver critical human service programs to its most vulnerable citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** a federal shutdown potentially threatens the flow of critical federal dollars to major human service programs that serve families, individuals, the disabled, and seniors; and
- WHEREAS,** these critical services include an array of human services that provide valuable safety nets to children, families, disabled, and seniors, including federal housing programs, SNAP, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Federal Drug Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, Women’s Infants and Children, Social Services Block Grant, and Home and Care Community Block Grant; and
- WHEREAS,** local and state governments do not have the capacity to supplant federal dollars during a shutdown, thus creating gaps in service; and
- WHEREAS,** over 1.3 million people receive SNAP benefits in North Carolina; and
- WHEREAS,** over 36,000 individuals receive SNAP benefits in Durham County, serving over 17,000 households; and
- WHEREAS,** In Durham County, 60% of the SNAP caseload had children under 18 years of age and 27.4% include people of 60 years old or older; and
- WHEREAS,** Durham County issues on average \$4.5 million dollars in Food and Nutrition benefits that is pumped into the economy each month; and
- WHEREAS,** community non-profits, places of worship, and service providers do not have the capacity to expand services to meet needs during a federal shutdown; and
- WHEREAS,** local non-profits assisting with food insecurity issues only meet 5% of the need during normal operations; and
- WHEREAS,** a federal shutdown can interrupt funds that protect children and adults from abuse and neglect, creating additional financial burdens on an already strained system; and
- WHEREAS,** a federal shutdown could increase the risk of children and vulnerable adults and leave local governments without services; and
- WHEREAS,** human service programs help support economic viability through pumping critical dollars into the local economies through benefits; and
- WHEREAS,** a federal shutdown threatens the health and well-being of communities across the country.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** we the members of the Durham County Board of Commissioners do respectfully ask that the SNAP program be considered an essential service that protects the most vulnerable citizens and be exempt from impact during any federal government shutdown.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we the members of the Durham County Board of Commissioners do respectfully ask Senator Burr, Senator Tillis and Congressman Butterfield and Congressman Price to work to maintain federal operations and pass funding resolutions so that the federal government will not shutdown at any time and threaten the health, safety, and well-being of our most vulnerable citizens.

This 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019.

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Wendy Jacobs, Chair

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James Hill, Jr., Vice-Chair

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Heidi Carter

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Brenda A. Howerton

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Ellen Reckhow

