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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 31, 2025

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211 New York Inc. Offers Critical Support and Resources Amid Government Shutdown

Albany, NY – As the federal government shutdown continues to impact millions of Americans, 211 New York is reminding residents that help is available to everyone. By dialing 2-1-1 or visiting 211nys.org, New Yorkers can access free, confidential assistance connecting them to essential local resources — 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

“Government shutdowns can cause serious uncertainty for families, especially those relying on federal programs for food, housing, and healthcare,” said Therese Daly, President of 211 New York and United Way of New York State. “Our trained 211 specialists are ready 24/7 to help individuals understand their options and connect with community supports that can make a real difference. Please know our Community Resource Specialists are ready to serve you, anonymously, 24/7.”

During the shutdown, 211 New York can connect callers to resources including:

- **Food Assistance:** Local food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency meal programs for individuals and families affected by SNAP or WIC disruptions.
- **Housing and Utilities Support:** Emergency rental assistance, shelters, and help with utility shutoffs.
- **Healthcare Access:** Guidance on maintaining Medicaid, CHIP, or other essential health coverage.
- **Unemployment and Financial Help:** Local programs offering emergency financial aid, employment resources, and budgeting support.



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- Mental Health and Crisis Services: Emotional support and referrals for mental health and counseling resources.

Expanded State Support for Food Access

Governor Kathy Hochul yesterday announced a State of Emergency and more than \$106 million in new funding to ensure that New Yorkers have access to food and basic needs during the federal shutdown. These resources complement the critical local connections made every day through 211.

Key actions include:

- \$65 million in new State funds for programs that support food banks, pantries, soup kitchens, and other emergency food providers.
- \$40 million for the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP), which partners with over 2,700 emergency food providers statewide.
- \$25 million for Nourish NY, which supplies surplus agricultural products — such as milk, cheese, yogurt, apples, and vegetables — to families in need.
- Deployment of Empire State Service Corps and SUNY Corps Members to support food banks, pantries, and local relief efforts across the state.

Governor Hochul’s action follows a joint lawsuit with 24 other states demanding the release of emergency SNAP funds, as well as a bipartisan letter signed by 20 Governors urging federal action.

“These emergency state funds and local partnerships are lifelines for families facing food insecurity,” said Daly. “We’re proud that 211 is part of New York’s coordinated response — ensuring residents know where to turn and that help is available right now in every community.”

How to Connect



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New Yorkers can reach 211 by phone, text, or online chat to get connected with nearby services in their community. Assistance is available in multiple languages, and all calls are free and confidential.

For more information, visit www.211nys.org or simply dial 2-1-1 to speak with a trained specialist today.