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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



EBRCOA Responds to Suspension of SNAP Benefits with Emergency Food Assistance for Seniors

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana (10/27/2025) – The East Baton Rouge Council on Aging (EBRCOA) expresses deep concern over the suspension of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits resulting from the ongoing federal government shutdown. This disruption poses a severe threat to food security among thousands of older adults in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Many seniors in the parish live in food deserts with limited access to affordable, nutritious groceries. For these individuals, SNAP benefits are essential to sustaining health, independence, and overall well-being. The sudden loss of assistance places them at heightened risk for hunger and malnutrition.

“The threat of losing SNAP benefits is not just a financial hardship. It’s a public health crisis,” said Tasha Clark-Amar, CEO of EBRCOA. “The Council on Aging is committed to doing everything possible to ensure that no senior in our community goes hungry.”

To mitigate this crisis, EBRCOA is mobilizing emergency food assistance through its Lotus Food Pantry and a Drive-Thru Food Giveaway on Monday, November 3, 2025. The agency understands that circumstances surrounding the federal government shutdown and the suspension of benefits may change prior to the scheduled event. However, it is imperative that EBRCOA act swiftly with plans to ease the plight of the seniors we serve and ensure that no senior goes hungry. EBRCOA remains prepared to pivot its plans should the situation change prior to the event to best meet the evolving needs of seniors.

The Food Giveaway will provide nutritious food to seniors affected by the suspension of benefits and help bridge the gap during this period of uncertainty. EBRCOA will continue working with community partners and volunteers to expand food access and ensure that the nearly 10,000 parish seniors who rely on SNAP receive critical support. The agency remains steadfast in its mission to enhance quality of life for seniors by promoting independence, preserving dignity, and meeting essential needs.

For more information or to learn how you can support EBRCOA’s food assistance efforts, please visit www.ebrcoa.org or call 225-923-8000

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East Baton Rouge Council On Aging: Supporting Independence ~ Serving Seniors

Since 1973, the East Baton Rouge Council on Aging (EBRCOA), a 501c3 nonprofit supported by philanthropic donations and public funds (federal, state, and local), has served the seniors of East Baton Rouge Parish through a spectrum of nutritional and social services such as the nationally recognized Meals on Wheels program and over a dozen community senior centers throughout the Parish. EBRCOA is charged with discovering and meeting the growing needs of this ever-increasing population. Central to EBRCOA’s mission – Supporting Independence and Serving Seniors – is providing high-quality services to seniors, maintaining their independence, and enhancing their storied lives while being good fiduciary stewards of public funds and trust. More information about EBRCOA and its services can be found online at www.ebrcoa.org.

The East Baton Rouge Council on Aging (EBRCOA) is a non-profit organization serving the senior population of East Baton Rouge Parish.