



City of Bloomington Common Council

Legislative Packet – 2nd Addendum

Containing legislative materials related to:

Wednesday, 5 November 2025

Regular Session at 6:30pm



**City of Bloomington
Office of the Common Council**

November 4, 2025

To: The Honorable Kerry Thomson, Mayor of Bloomington

From: The Bloomington Common Council

Subject: Additional Emergency Appropriations for Food Access

Dear Mayor Thomson,

As the federal shutdown continues to disrupt the distribution of SNAP benefits, Bloomington families are already feeling the strain. In moments like this, local government must move with clarity and care to ensure our neighbors can meet their most basic needs.

We applaud your administration's swift action in providing \$46,000 in emergency funding to Hoosier Hills Food Bank to sustain food access during this critical time. This action reflects our city's enduring commitment to care, stewardship, and solidarity.

The Council welcomes any additional appropriations your administration may deem necessary to meet rising community needs should the federal government remain closed and SNAP benefits continue to be delayed or reduced. One option would be to draw on the Jack Hopkins Social Services Fund, whose current cash balance of \$56,431.73 is available and whose purpose is precisely to address urgent, unmet human needs in times of hardship. Deploying these resources would strengthen the capacity of local service providers to bridge the gap for children, seniors, and working families.

This is a testing moment, but also an opportunity to show what Bloomington does best: to meet need with action and uncertainty with shared resolve. The Council stands ready to act promptly on any appropriation ordinance that brings relief to those most affected

Signed

Council Member Signatories

Dear Bloomington Residents,

The current federal government shutdown will disrupt SNAP benefits for many households in our community. This is not just a temporary inconvenience but a crisis for families who rely on these benefits to keep food on the table. When federal systems fail, local communities step in. That's what Bloomington does best.

As members of the Bloomington City Council, we are deeply concerned about the growing strain many of our neighbors are facing as federal funding disruptions threaten access to food assistance, including SNAP benefits. These benefits are a critical lifeline for families across our city, and the potential gap in support could leave many without enough to eat.

To the residents directly affected: **you are not forgotten**. Help is available through many local partners, including Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Community Kitchen, Bloomington Township, and Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. If you or someone you know needs food, please see the attached resources pamphlet from Hoosier Hills Food Bank or dial **2-1-1** to be connected with local programs.

At the same time, we know many Bloomingtonians are asking, "*How can I help?*" Our local food assistance organizations have told us what they need most: reliable, sustained support, not just during moments of crisis but throughout the year. We encourage residents to engage in meaningful, ongoing ways that strengthen our community safety net.

That's why, as your City Council, we are calling on residents, businesses, civic groups, and neighborhood associations to join together with us in a **Bloomington Food Resilience Effort**. This is not a new program or city expenditure; it's a collective commitment to ensuring every household has consistent access to food, now and in the months ahead.

Here's how you can take part:

1. **Commit to Regular Giving** – Set up a recurring monthly donation (even small ones make a big difference) or adopt a local pantry as your group's ongoing partner.
2. **Organize Mutual Aid Networks** – Connect with neighbors to share extra groceries, coordinate meal trains, and ensure that no one near you goes without.
3. **Volunteer Consistently** – Food banks need predictable help with sorting, packing, and delivery. A regular volunteer shift is as valuable as a financial donation.
4. **Amplify Local Needs** – Use your platforms — social, professional, or faith-based — to keep awareness alive long after the initial crisis passes.
5. **Stay Informed and Connected** – Find an up-to-date list of local resources and volunteer opportunities by dialing 2-1-1 or visiting in211.communityos.org.

This letter is not announcing a new city initiative, nor does it suggest that the council is leading a coordinated effort. Rather, it reflects a shared moral responsibility to use our public platforms to lift up the organizations already doing this vital work and to call our community to action alongside them.

Councilmembers Asare and Daily, along with County Commissioner Madeira, will also convene a public conversation with local food access organizations to ensure we understand their ongoing needs and can help align communication and outreach efforts. This event will be on Sunday, November 9th, at the Downtown Branch of the Monroe County Public Library. Bloomington has always shown compassion, creativity, and resolve in the face of challenge. Let's demonstrate again that when national systems falter, local communities like ours rise together.

With gratitude and determination,
Members of the Bloomington City Council

Agency	Hours	Address	Phone
Food Pantries			
<i>This brochure was updated in October 2025</i>			
Area 10 Agency on Aging	Call to apply for delivery	630 W Edgewood, Ellettsville	812-876-3383
Bloomington Township Trustee	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs 9 am - 6 pm + 3 rd Sat each month 10 am – 2 pm	924 W 17 th St, Suite C, Bloomington	812-336-4976
Bobby's Pantry / Perry Township Trustee	Mon – Fri 9 am – 3 pm	1010 S Walnut, Bloomington	812-336-3713
Breaking Bread Food Pantry/Highland Faith Church	2 nd Thurs each month 4 - 7 pm or call for appt	4782 W St Rd 48, Bloomington	812-332-3707
Crestmont Community Food Pantry	Fri 2:30 - 4 pm	1002 N Summit, Bloomington, back patio	812-339-3491
Feed the Needy / Second Baptist Church	Mon and Tues 10 am-noon	321 N Rogers, Bloomington	812-336-5827
First United Methodist Church Food Pantry	Wed 3:30 – 5:30 pm	219 E 4 th St, Bloomington	812-332-6396
Genesis Church Food Pantry	3 rd Sun each month 11 am – 12:30 pm and Last Tues each month 10 am - noon	801 E St Rd 45/46 Bypass	812-336-5757
Grace Center Food Pantry	Thurs 3 – 6 pm	9206 S Old 37, Harrodsburg	812-329-0337
Groceries to Go	Call to apply for delivery	2620 N Walnut St, Bloomington	812-822-2499
Healing Hands Food Pantry	Tues, Wed, Thurs 11 am – 3 pm and Mon 11 am – 6 pm	1917 S Walnut St, Bloomington	812-272-2515
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard	Tues, Wed, Thurs noon– 6 pm	1100 W Allen St, Bloomington	812-355-6843
Pantry 279	Mon + Wed 3-6 pm, Tues 4 – 6 pm, Sat 1 - 3 pm or delivery	3609 W SR 46, Ellettsville	812-606-1524
Redeemer Church Resources Pantry	Tues 3—6 pm or call for appointment	111 S Kimble Rd, Bloomington	812-269-8975
Richland Township Trustee	Mon – Fri 8 am – 2 pm	416 S Park St, Ellettsville	812-876-2000
Salvation Army of Bloomington	Tues 12:30 – 3:30 pm + Thurs 12:30 – 6:30 pm	111 N Rogers, Bloomington	812-336-4310
St Paul United Methodist Church Food Pantry	Wed 5 - 7 pm	4201 W 3 rd St, Bloomington	812-332-4191
Tabitha's Storehouse	Last Thurs each month 10 am – 2 pm	421 S Curry Pike, Bloomington	812-336-7224
Van Buren Township Trustee	Wed 1 – 3 pm + Fri 1 - 5	352 Fieldstone Blvd, Bloomington	812-825-4490
Walnut Woods Food Pantry	2 nd and 4 th Thurs each month 3 – 4:30 pm	1709 South Park Avenue, Bloomington	812-339-3491
Prepared Meals			
Community Kitchen of Monroe County	Mon – Sat 4 – 6 pm	1515 S Rogers, Bloomington	812-332-0999
Community Kitchen Express	Mon – Sat 4 – 6 pm	1100 W 11 th St, Bloomington	812-332-0999
Community Kitchen food truck	See monroecommunitykitchen.com/meal-service	Various locations	812-332-0999
Shalom Center	Mon - Fri 8 – 9 am + noon – 1:30 pm	620 S Walnut, Bloomington	812-334-5728
Wheeler Mission Center for Men	7 days/week 7 - 8 am, noon – 1 pm + 5 – 6 pm	215 S Westplex Ave, Bloomington	812-333-1905

Hoosier Hills Food Bank

We are a non-profit corporation dedicated to the elimination of hunger in south central Indiana. With the help of donors and volunteers, we rescue and store foods and provide them to about 100 Agency Partners in Brown, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Owen, and Orange Counties. Our agencies serve people who are ill, needy, or minor children.

HHFB Member Food Pantries

Our partner food pantries provide free groceries. Some pantries may require you to meet income guidelines, and they vary in size and selection. Turn over this page to see a list of HHFB's Agency Partners.

HHFB Member Community Kitchens

Our partner on-site feeding programs serve meals and snacks you can eat there or take home. Some also offer shelter. This brochure shows agencies open to the public. Our other on-site feeding partners include daycares, youth programs, and group homes.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program

If you are over 60 years old and meet income guidelines, you may qualify to get a bimonthly box of food providing protein, calcium, iron, and vitamins. Contact Dave at HHFB at 812-334-8374 or foodprogram@hhfoodbank.org.

HHFB is an equal opportunity employer. About 11% of our funding comes from federal government sources, and about 82% of total funding comes from non-governmental sources.

This brochure was updated in October 2025.

Monroe County Township Trustees

Township Trustees provide assistance with basic necessities like food, clothing, utility bills, shelter, and medical expenses. To get assistance, you need to live in the township, apply for SNAP or other benefits, have income under the poverty level (with some exceptions), and show your expenses exceed your income. Call to find out if you qualify. Phone numbers are in area code 812.

Township	Trustee	Phone
Bean Blossom	Ronald Hutson	935-7174
Benton	Michelle Bright	339-6593
Bloomington	Efrat Rosser	336-4976
Clear Creek	Thelma Jeffries	824-7225
Indian Creek	Christopher Reynolds	824-4941
Perry	Dan Combs	336-3713
Polk	Scott Smith	837-9446
Richland	Martin Stephens	876-2509
Salt Creek	Joan Hall	837-9140
Van Buren	Rita Barrow	825-4490
Washington	Mary VanDeventer	876-1158

Dial 2-1-1 for Social Services

for help with food, shelter, clothing, childcare, transportation, legal services, education, employment, health care, and substance abuse.



Federal SNAP Benefits

See if you qualify for food stamps:

1-800-403-0864, <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp>

Get help applying by calling Michelle at HHFB at 812-334-8374 or SNAP@hhfoodbank.org.

Free/Reduced Price Meals for Children

Your child may qualify for free or reduced-price lunch and breakfast at school. Contact the MCCSC Food Service Office at 812 349 4762, 560 E Miller Drive or www.mccsc.edu.

FINDING FOOD in MONROE COUNTY



Hoosier Hills Food Bank
2333 W Industrial Park Dr
Bloomington, IN 47404

PO Box 697
Bloomington, IN 47402

812-334-8374
www.hhfoodbank.org

Some HHFB Agency Partners provide free groceries, and some serve prepared meals. Some are located in churches, but you do not need to be a member of any church or attend religious services to get food.



MUTUAL AID FUND FOR FOLKS LOSING SNAP BENEFITS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this fund is to raise and directly distribute money to folks living in Monroe County, Indiana who have lost November SNAP benefits.

If you have lost SNAP benefits,
you can sign up to receive
mutual aid here:
<https://bit.ly/snapmutualaidform>

WHAT YOU CAN DONATE

Cash or gift card! Any amount is welcomed.

WHERE YOU CAN DONATE

Please send cash donations via
Venmo or PayPal.

Venmo:

mobiejean

Paypal:

elizabethbarnhardt1

Contact us at snapmutualaid@gmail.com to
donate gift cards.

For transparency, we will post each donation
amount on this spreadsheet:

<https://bit.ly/snapmutualaid>

WHAT IS MUTUAL AID?

Mutual aid is a way for us to directly share resources and care for each other without reliance on institutions. The administration has left us to starve. It is up to us to ensure we are fed. Even if USDA funds are distributed, they will not go out for weeks nor be the full benefit amount. We can close this gap together as a community.

This fund is organized by
three community
members:
Lou, Zachary & Mobie.

Contact us with questions:
snapmutualaid@gmail.com

