

1 By Supervisors Nicholson, Johnson, Jr., Taylor (Dist. 5),
2 Rolland, Martinez, Bielinski, O'Connor, Martin,
3 Gómez-Tom, Capriolo, Coggs-Jones, Shea,
4 Eckblad, and Vincent
5
6
7

File No. 25-704

8 **A RESOLUTION**
9

10 Authorizing a \$150,000 appropriation transfer from Agency 194-1945 -
11 Appropriation for Contingencies to Agency 800 – Department of Health and
12 Human Services for emergency supplemental food assistance in response to
13 SNAP reductions during the federal government shutdown
14
15

16 WHEREAS, on October 31, 2025, Governor Tony Evers declared a State
17 of Emergency which, according to Executive Order #278, is “due to the federal
18 government shutdown and a recent directive by the Trump Administration, the
19 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as FoodShare in Wisconsin,
20 is in jeopardy, as regular funding for the program is set to end on November 1
21 unless the Trump Administration takes urgent action to extend benefits using
22 available federal resources”; and
23

24 WHEREAS, this emergency directly affects the Supplemental Nutrition
25 Assistance Program (SNAP), which helps nearly 700,000 people statewide,
26 including more than 234,000 in Milwaukee County, as well as families, seniors,
27 and children throughout Wisconsin; and
28

29 WHEREAS, food security is a fundamental need for all residents of Milwaukee
30 County, and disruptions in federal nutrition programs such as Supplemental Nutrition
31 Assistance Program (SNAP) present immediate risks to low-income households by
32 reducing purchasing power for groceries among seniors, people with disabilities,
33 families with children, and those working in low-wage jobs; and
34

35 WHEREAS, the Metcalfe Park neighborhood on Milwaukee’s near-northwest side
36 is recognized as a “food apartheid” rather than “food desert” as deliberate, racialized
37 systems of disinvestment, especially since the closure of the grocery store at 35th
38 Street and Meinecke Avenue, which forced many residents without personal
39 transportation to travel further for full-service supermarket access; and
40

WHEREAS, NourishMKE, the largest network of community food centers in Milwaukee, operates on a model of dignity, access, and belonging by providing no-cost groceries in welcoming spaces where residents can select and prepare quality foods, recognizing that hunger is a real problem and access to food should be a fundamental right; and

WHEREAS, NourishMKE's partnership with Milwaukee County, including its food pantry at the new Marcia P. Coggs Health and Human Services Building, demonstrates how County investment in such community-driven models can effectively deliver emergency supplemental food assistance to residents impacted by reductions in SNAP benefits, particularly as the holidays approach; and

WHEREAS, in anticipation of the impending SNAP benefit reduction and surge in food demand, it is both prudent and necessary for Milwaukee County to quickly respond to ensure stable food access for residents most at risk of hunger; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance-Budget, at its special meeting of November 6, 2025, recommended adoption of File No. 25-704 (vote 7-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorizes the Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance, in conjunction with the Office of the Comptroller, to process an appropriation transfer of \$150,000 from Agency 194-1945 - Appropriation for Contingencies to Agency 800 - Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), allowing DHHS to determine how to best allocate the funds for the purpose of providing emergency supplemental food assistance to County residents impacted by the reduction in SNAP benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that DHHS may enter in agreement(s) with local partners best equipped to provide for emergency supplemental food assistance, provided such agreements include clear performance metrics, including the number of households served, pounds of food distributed (with emphasis on fresh and perishable goods), and targeted outreach to neighborhoods with limited grocery access; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that DHHS shall report to the County Board no later than the March 2026 meeting cycle on expenditures and program impact, and may request additional funds for consideration during the December 2025 meeting cycle if community needs exceed available resources.

11/06/25

S:\Budget Files\2026 Budget Files\Special Meeting Finance Budget 110625\25-704 Contingency\Resolution\25-704 Emergency Food Assistance.docx