RAMSEY COUNTY

Board Workshop / Discussion Agenda

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-9200

October 24, 2025 - 10 a.m. **Courthouse Room 220**

DISCUSSION

1. Federal Government Shutdown Contingency Planning 2025-468

Sponsors: County Manager's Office

RAMSEY COUNTY

Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-9200

Item Number: 2025-468 **Meeting Date:** 10/24/2025

Sponsor: County Manager's Office

Title
Federal Government Shutdown Contingency Planning

Attachment
1. Presentation

Federal Shutdown: Contingency Planning

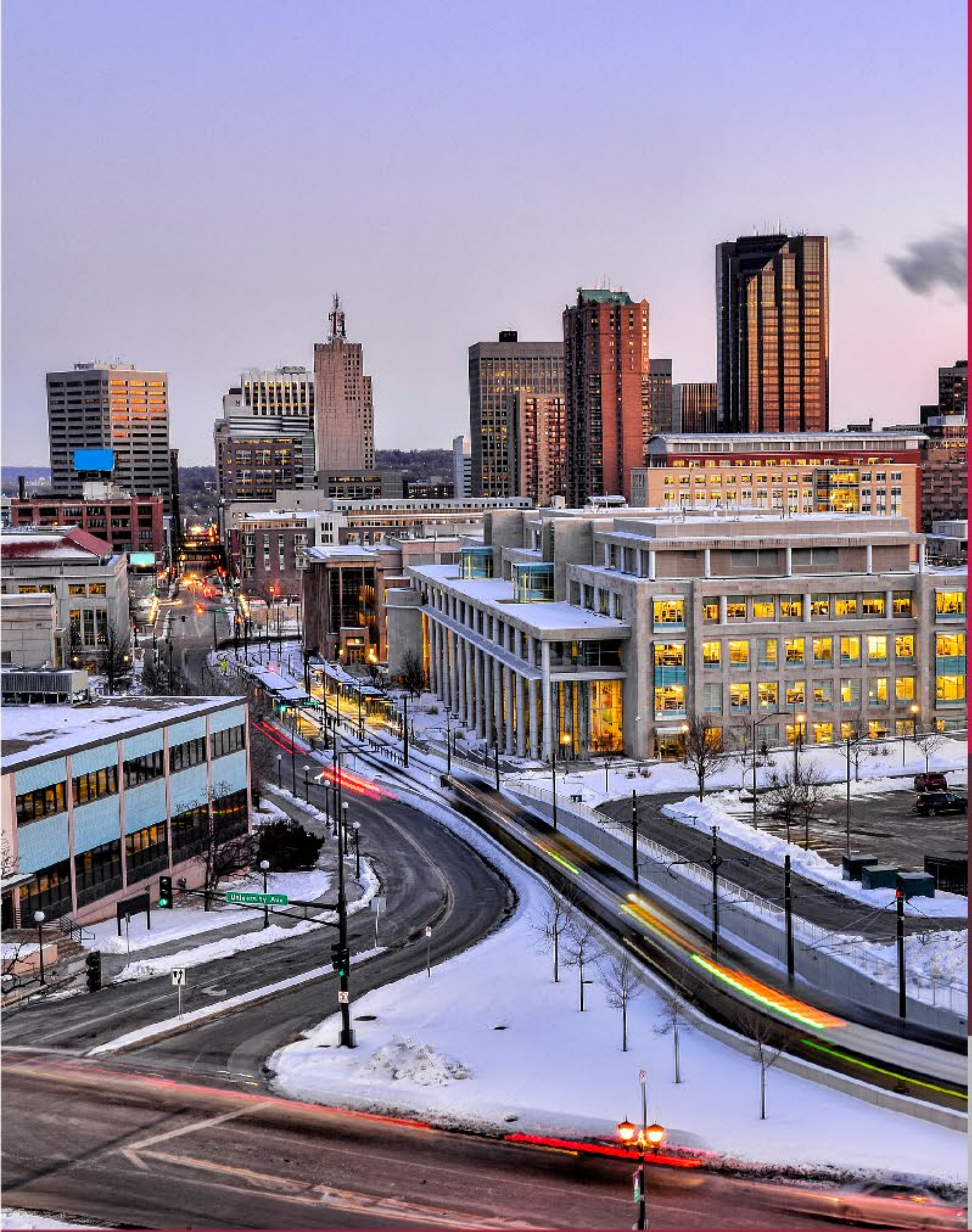
October 24, 2025

RAMSEY COUNTY

Meeting Goals

- Provide the County Board with an update on the federal shutdown impacts on the WIC and SNAP programs.

- Provide general direction on next steps as we approach November 1st should the shutdown continue.



Agenda

1. Background
   a) SNAP and WIC overviews
   b) SNAP and WIC updates
   c) Ramsey County response
2. Contingency planning
3. Considerations
4. Discussion and next steps

What is SNAP?

- **Summary:** SNAP is a federal nutrition-assistance program enabling low-income households to purchase food.
- **Benefits:** Recipients receive benefits on an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card which works like a debit card for approved food purchases.
- **Eligibility:**
  - Income must fall below specified limits.
  - Able bodied adults without dependents must meet work requirements.
  - 2025 reconciliation bill introduced stricter work requirements, which states start implementing on November 1, 2025.
- **Impact:**
  - About 440,000 MN residents currently receive SNAP benefits.
  - Ramsey County has over 34,000 active SNAP cases, providing benefits to an estimated 85,000 individuals.

What is WIC?

- **Summary:** WIC is a federally funded, state-administered nutrition program. It provides nutrition education, healthy food benefits, and health referrals to support the growth and wellbeing of pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and young children.
- **Benefits:**
    - WIC participants receive monthly food benefits through an eWIC card to buy approved healthy foods.
    - The program also provides nutrition counseling, breastfeeding support, and referrals to healthcare and social services.
- **Eligibility:**
    - The program is for pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children under age five.
    - Recipients must meet income requirements and have a health/nutrition risk as determined by a WIC health professional.
- **Impact:**
    - Over 100,000 MN residents currently receive WIC benefits.
    - Over 17,900 Ramsey County residents currently receive WIC benefits

SNAP

USDA

WIC

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

State draws benefit and admin funding from USDA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

State provides SNAP admin funding to RC via quarterly Random Moments revenue

Statewide EBT contractor issues benefits to residents through EBT cards, reimburses retailers for EBT purchases

State provides WIC admin funding to RC via monthly reimbursements

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Financial Assistance Services

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Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health

RC FAS staff assist residents with SNAP applications and verify eligibility

RC PH staff verify eligibility for WIC and provide nutrition education, breastfeeding support, referrals.

WIC updates

- **September:**
  - MDH requests to amend WIC agreement to allow the agreement to be suspended if funding is temporarily unavailable.
- **October:**
  - MDH WIC initially says there is funding to sustain WIC program for “a few weeks”
  - Later, MDH WIC reports receiving additional USDA funding which can “cover WIC costs into mid-November.”

Important note: the situation continues to evolve and change rapidly. Ramsey County is monitoring developments closely.

SNAP updates/timeline

- **October:**
  - USDA notifies DCYF that funding for SNAP is running out, November SNAP benefits should not be issued.
  - DCYF sends message to counties about their plan to comply with USDA guidance and prevent November benefits from being issued.
    - DCYF will prevent November benefits from being issued. In November, new applications and recertifications cannot be approved.
    - This will impact November SNAP and MFIP *food* benefits (which are USDA-funded)
    - DCYF initially said that MFIP cash benefits would also need to be blocked in November but later implemented a solution that allows cash benefits to continue.

Important note: the situation continues to evolve and change rapidly. Ramsey County is monitoring developments closely.

Ramsey County Response

- Convening internal group for daily huddle to coordinate urgent response efforts
- FAS staff working overtime to process as many applications, aiming to provide benefits to as many residents as possible in October.
- Communications and Public Relations helping to develop materials for residents, County staff, Service Centers (e.g., signage), legislative delegation, and more.
- Engaging with State and County partners to coordinate and strategize:
    - CM Becker meeting weekly with County Administrators
    - CoS Sarabia and others meeting regularly with DCYF, MMB, Hennepin County.
    - CFO Kotze engaging with Finance leaders at the State
    - Government relations communicating with legislative delegation
    - Federal Response email sent today.
- Contingency planning: assessing possible budget and labor impacts and understanding options.

Contingency Planning for What's Next

- Acknowledging shifting information and timelines.
- There is a chance that as shutdown continues, funding for SNAP and WIC staff will no longer be covered through state/federal reimbursement.
- Need to do contingency planning.
- Recommend focusing on 30-day scenario planning and reconvening with the County Board as the situation progresses.

Contingency Planning

Budget Summary- WIC

Total WIC FTEs: 47.8

Monthly Staff Cost: $336,649

Monthly cost for other admin expenses: $18,500

Revenue: WIC Grant reimbursement covers majority of WIC costs.

- WIC receives $575,000/year in supplemental levy funds, $195,000 is remaining in 2025 and will be used by year end.

Estimated Financial Risk for the County: $355,150 per month of shutdown once tax levy and WIC grant funding runs out.

Budget Summary- SNAP

Total SNAP FTEs: 263.5

Monthly Random Moment (RM) Staff Cost: $1,709,608 (not including temp staff)

Monthly Non- RM cost for staff/admin expenses: $592,000

Revenue: 50% Random Moment Time Study/Federal Revenue funded

Estimated Financial Risk for the County: $1,150,800 per month of shutdown once funding runs out. 2026 impact.

Overview

- The situation is evolving rapidly with many unknowns.
- Given uncertainty…
  - Plan potential response for the next 30 days
  - Reassess and reconnect before Thanksgiving to update plans.
- 30-day plan overview:
  - Cover costs temporarily with other County or grant funds. This may require General Fund- fund balance.
  - Continue to explore options for reassigning staff to non-disrupted work.
  - Continue close coordination with state and county partners.

30-Day Contingency Plan

	WIC	SNAP
Staff assignments	Through Nov 15th: - Funding for benefits is available. Staff continue normal operations. Nov 16 – Nov 30th: - Funding for benefits is exhausted. WIC staff continue to schedule appointments and work on certifying benefits. After Nov 30: discuss	Through Oct 31: - Benefits remain available. Staff continue normal operations plus overtime to process as many applications as possible. Nov 1 – Nov 30th: - Staff continue to process SNAP applications but cannot approve. - FAS assessing ability to shift some staff to work on other benefits (e.g., healthcare) After Nov 30: discuss
Budget impact	Through Nov 15th: no impact – WIC grant reimbursements still available. **Nov 16 – Nov 30th: County covers an estimated $177,000 in costs.** After Nov 30: discuss	Through Oct 31: no impact – typical RM revenue anticipated. **Nov 1 – Nov 30th: RM revenue not guaranteed. County covers an estimated $1,150,800 in costs.** After Nov 30: discuss

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