

News...

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD



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Ford Encourages Lawmakers to Take Action to Support SNAP as Program Faces Significant Cuts

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Alarmed by expected cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), state Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, is urging lawmakers in Washington and Springfield to take action to further fund food programs that families depend on.

“If someone is using SNAP, they’re already facing significant difficulties,” Ford said. “I’m alarmed that benefits are being rolled back, and of the consequences that are going to result. Local food pantries and services are going to be further strained, and families are going to lose access to even more food as grocery prices are already high as we deal with inflation and economic concerns.”

Under direction by the federal government, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) is advising SNAP households that February 2023 will be the last month households are able to receive the emergency SNAP allotment in place since April 2020. In March, SNAP benefits will return to pre-pandemic levels, which is expected to result in a total decrease of between \$95 and \$255 per household per month.

IDHS urges SNAP recipients to visit www.abe.illinois.gov to make sure their account is updated and receiving the maximum benefit they are eligible for.

Due to the scope and impact of the program, Ford is encouraging the U.S. Congress to take steps to reverse this decision and ensure families can continue to receive access to the food they deserve. If action is not taken, Ford is studying ways the state can better support families that are impacted, as well as local organizations that provide food to those in need.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Illinois currently has a 4.7% unemployment rate, which is second from last compared to other states.

“We should collectively be working to uplift these families, not make their lives more difficult,” Ford said. “This is a critically-important program that helps people get back on their feet. I’m concerned about where our state is with unemployment, and substantially reducing benefits at this time is a reckless move we cannot accept.”

For more information, please contact RepFord@LaShawnFord.com.

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