



To advocate please contact your **Congressman**, **Senator** and **Governor**. The links below will take you to a form for you to complete for each contact or direct emails have been provided when applicable.

Steps to follow:

>Select the relevant contacts for your area below

Congressman Vern Buchanan

<https://buchanan.house.gov/contact>

Congressman Greg Steube

<https://steube.house.gov/zip-code-lookup?form=/contact/email-me>

Senator Marco Rubio

<https://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact>

Senator Rick Scott

Email directly to help@rickscott.senate.gov

Governor DeSantis

<https://www.flgov.com/email-the-governor/>

For forms:

>Most will require you to fill out your zip code first to authenticate that person is your representative

>Fill out your personal information

>Message Subject: **Continue funding for federal nutrition programs**

>Copy and paste email template provided below and edit contact name accordingly

>Submit

For email addresses:

>Email Subject: **Continue funding for federal nutrition programs**

>Copy and paste email template provided below and edit contact name accordingly

>Send

Email Template:

Dear **Senator/Congressman/Governor XXXX**

I am writing today to share my concern about the impact the ongoing government shutdown will have on people who are struggling with hunger, especially the most vulnerable - children, veterans, seniors and people living with disabilities.

In Sarasota County there are 32,000 families and another 6,300 families in DeSoto County who depend on SNAP to put food on the table. If the shutdown continues, this essential program will end in late February. Children will be hardest hit. Almost 70% of the 38,300 families enrolled in SNAP have kids.

Within a few weeks, tens of thousands of our neighbors who depend on federal food assistance will likely turn to local food banks and agencies for help. Despite their best efforts, food banks, soup kitchens and food pantries will not be able to fill this void.

According to Feeding America, for every 1 meal provided by food banks, SNAP provides 12. Simple math gives you an idea of how many meals the charitable hunger relief network would need to provide in order to replace this critical federal food assistance program.

I urge **Senator/Congressman/Governor XXXX to support continued funding for federal nutrition programs.** Constituents, retailers and the community are being harmed. People need and deserve to have food.

Sincerely,

<Name>