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October 28, 2025

Office of the Principal Chief

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Principal Chief
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Bryan Warner
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TO: Johnny Jack Kidwell,
Speaker, Council of the Cherokee Nation
FR: Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Principal Chief
CC: Bryan Warner, Deputy Chief
Cabinet / Sub-cabinet
Executive Directors

DECLARATION
of
ANTICIPATED STATE OF EMERGENCY
regarding
THE FEDERAL FUNDING LAPSE IMPOSED CONDITIONS OF FOOD INSECURITY

For the reasons set for the below within the Cherokee Nation reservation are reasonably likely to constitute a threat sufficient to constitute an Anticipated State of Emergency within the meaning of the [Cherokee Nation Emergency Management Act](#), as amended, an emergency within the meaning of the [Cherokee Nation Sovereign Wealth Fund](#), as amended, and impacts public health and wellness within the meaning of the [Public Health and Wellness Fund Act](#), as amended.

1. Facts Necessitating this Declaration:

- a. The federal government has experienced a funding lapse since October 1, 2025, based on a failure of approval of appropriations.
- b. Based on publicly available information, referenced federal funding lapse does not appear susceptible to a resolution on any future date certain and the federal budget process appears to be in a state of indeterminate political dysfunction.
- c. The United States Department of Agriculture advised on October 26, 2025, that with respect to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, “at this time there will be no benefits issued November 1.”

- d. Among the approximate 686,800 Oklahoma SNAP participants are an estimated 6,500 Cherokee Nation citizens living within the Cherokee Nation Reservation. As many as 22,700 Cherokee Nation SNAP participants live in areas contiguous to the reservation. By virtue of geographic proximity, food insecurity experienced by these citizens in the describes areas, as well as non-citizens in those areas, have a direct and substantial negative impact on the collective health of citizens and communities within the reservation.
- e. Citizens of federally recognized tribes within qualifying parts of the Cherokee Nation are eligible for an alternative to SNAP, the Food Distribution on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) operating as the Cherokee Nation Food Distribution Program.
- f. The Cherokee Nation Food Distribution Program, though not immune from a supply and funding lapse due to the federal funding lapse, has sufficient resources to operate at for a period of months of continued federal funding lapse.
- g. Cherokee Nation has relationships with a variety of food security non-profits throughout the reservation, the operation of which continually or on an as needed basis address food security needs for individuals throughout the region.
- h. In addition to our Cherokee Nation Food Distribution Program, a variety of other programs may experience future funding lapses as a consequence of the federal funding lapse, including but not limited to Head Start, WIC and Job Corps.
- i. The lapse in federal funding has resulted in an unknown number of federal employees living within the Cherokee Nation Reservation furloughed and/or terminated due to a funding lapse related reduction in force, thereby creating additional economic and food security threats within the reservation.
- j. The elimination of SNAP benefits (which per the USDA generates \$1.50 in economic activity for every \$1 dollar of SNAP spending) within the Cherokee Nation Reservation will contribute to a weakening of the economy for some unknown period of time, particularly impacting local grocers.
- k. The facts above make available funds under the Cherokee Nation Emergency Management Act, the Public Health and Wellness Fund Act, and subject to council and executive branch actions prescribed by the act, the Sovereign Wealth Fund.

2. Having determined that an Anticipated State of Emergency and other hazardous conditions exist threatening the health and welfare of Cherokee Nation citizens,

communities and other individuals within the Cherokee Nation reservation, I am ordering or otherwise advising of the following:

- a. **Making SNAP Participants FDPIR eligible:** Every citizen of a federally recognized tribe within the reservation participating in the SNAP program during the month of November are deemed as of November 1, 2025, to have terminated their participation in that program upon making application to the Cherokee Nation food distribution program and signing an affidavit confirming same. Such determination is consistent with the prohibition of dual participation in SNAP and FDPIR within the meaning of the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, implementing regulations and policy memoranda and Cherokee Nation's memorandum of understanding with DHS on the subject. The names of such successful applicants and other minimal relevant identifying data shall be promptly communicated to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services as quickly as possible, but no less than three business days from the date of applicant approval.
- b. **\$1.25m Food Partners Emergency Funding**
 - i. **\$1.25m Grant Funding for Qualified Food Security Non-Profits within the Cherokee Nation and Contiguous Counties:** The Chief of Staff of the Cherokee Nation shall determine and appropriate allocation of funding, conditioned upon the execution of an appropriate MOU, with such food security non-profits within the Cherokee Nation Reservation or counties contiguous thereto and at such funding levels as the Chief of Staff deems appropriate, provided his determination seeks to achieve geographic equity within the and in the areas surrounding the Cherokee Nation reservation.
 - ii. **\$175,000 CCO Participating Organization Food Pantry Grants:** Double FY 26 funding for CCO Participating Organization food pantry grants.
 - iii. **\$80,000 Funding Increase for the Hawiya Meat Distribution Program:** For CCO Participating organizations participating in the "Hawiya Meat Program," a second or double allocation of meat for November distribution will be available, to be coordinated by the Deputy Secretary of State, targeting eligibility to community members on SNAP or to furloughed federal workers.
- c. **\$750,000 to Keep WIC Operating:** Should the federal Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Program experience a funding lapse, anticipated by mid-November, \$750,000 in tribal funds are available to continue the program at

100% benefit level at current participation levels for one month, or such pro-rata payments based on a substantial increase in participation.

- d. **\$4.5m in Direct Funding to Cherokee Citizens Within the Reservation and contiguous counties Impacted by SNAP Funding Lapse:** Up to \$4.5m million is available to provide direct payments to Cherokee Nation citizens within the reservation and contiguous counties experiencing a lapse in SNAP funding in an amount appreciating the State of Oklahoma's average monthly SNAP payment per individual, based on publicly available data. The platform for applications, via the Gadugi Portal, application should be open for application no later than November 3, 2025, and the average application processing time should be three business days and payments should issue electronically within one week of approval. The Chief of Staff shall determine an application deadline that best achieves the objectives of this declaration and the management of Cherokee Nation resources. Payments under this direct shall fall with the federal "General Welfare Exclusion" for income taxation purposes.
 - e. **Notice of Potential Request for Sovereign Wealth Fund Funding:** Council is advised that, should the federal funding lapse remain unresolved by November 7, 2025, my present intention is to send legislation to the Council to authorize appropriate emergency expenditures under the Sovereign Wealth Fund Act and that Administration will implement appropriate discretionary spending constraints within existing executive branch authority.
 - f. **Encourage Non-Partisan Civic Action:** By November 3, 2025, the Executive Director of Government Relations is directed to develop a "Federal Funding Shutdown: Cherokee Nation" impact fact sheet and a template letter to federal officials, free from partisan political considerations, available for review and use by Cherokee Nation citizens to advocate for an end to the federal government shutdown.
- 3. **No Rights Created or Diminished; Fraud, Waste and Abuse Unlawful:** Nothing in this order directly creates or diminishes any legally enforceable right or obligation in any natural or legal person, provided all extant laws protecting against fraud, wage and abuse in connection with spending pursuant to this Declaration remain in full force and effect.
 - 4. **Payments Contingent on Federal Funding Lapse:** Payments under this declaration are contingent upon the existence of a federal funding lapse in effect at the time payment is made and issuance after the end of the federal funding lapse requires further action from this office.

5. **Work Group:** The Chief of Staff, the Senior Advisor to the Principal Chief, the Secretary of State and the Deputy Secretary of State shall maintain a “Federal Funding Lapse Food Security State of Emergency” work group, engaging such additional staff and executive branch staff as warranted, to:
 - a. Monitor relevant conditions and recommend further action to this office no later than November 15, 2025.
 - b. Explore the availability of public and private sector resources to help effectuate the purposes and policies of this order.
6. **Conversion to State of Emergency Effective November 1:** This Anticipated Declaration of Emergency converts to a State of Emergency by operation of this declaration on November 1, 2025, remains in effect until revoked or terminated and is subject to my amendment with appropriate notice to the Speaker of the Council of the Cherokee Nation.



Chuck Hoskin, Jr.
Principal Chief

CONCURRENCE



Bryan Warner
Deputy Principal Chief