



By Congressman Ryan Mackenzie

Several weeks ago, I joined a bipartisan majority in the U.S. House of Representatives to pass a clean, nonpartisan government funding bill that would keep our government open. That nonpartisan bill has proceeded to the Senate, and while it continues to receive support from the bipartisan majority, some Senate Democrats are blocking it from receiving the 60 votes that are needed. This has resulted in a government shutdown.

As the shutdown continues, families across the Lehigh Valley and the Poconos are feeling the strain. I recently visited Second Harvest Food Bank to meet with staff and volunteers who are working tirelessly to keep food on the tables of families in need. Second Harvest is the region’s largest network of food banks and serves as a critical safety net for thousands of residents.

The shutdown has made that mission harder. The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services recently announced that SNAP benefits will not be issued again until the federal government reopens. The shutdown isn’t just a headline; it means empty pantries for families across the Lehigh Valley and the Poconos. With federal employees missing paychecks and food assistance programs halted, local food banks like Second Harvest are seeing increased demand.

Here’s what SNAP recipients need to know:

SNAP benefits will not be issued for November until the federal government is funded.

Any unused October benefits remain safe and can roll over into next month.

This poses a serious risk for tens of thousands of local families who rely on SNAP in order to put food on the table. The unnecessary and reckless government shutdown must end immediately. I continue to call on Senate Democratic Leadership to vote for the clean, bipartisan continuing resolution that will re-open the government and fully fund SNAP.

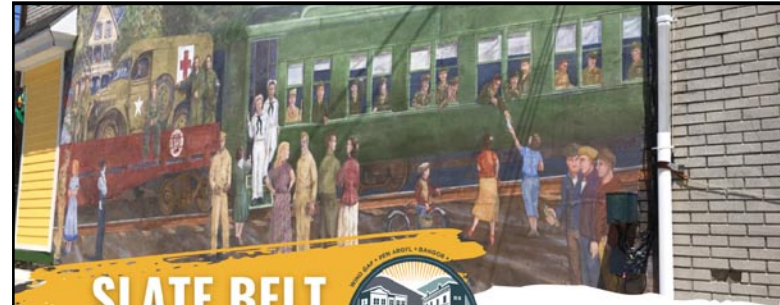
I also cosponsored H.R. 5822, the Keep Snap Funded Act of 2025. This legislation would ensure that families continue to receive SNAP benefits even during a government shutdown. This bill directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture to continue issuing benefits during a lapse in appropriations, gives the Secretary of Agriculture access to emergency funds to maintain SNAP operations, and allows the USDA to retroactively restore missed benefits once funding resumes. This commonsense legislation ensures no eligible family loses access to food because of political gridlock.

If you or your family are affected and need immediate food assistance, visit my government shutdown webpage for information on local food banks.

My team is here to help. Whether you need assistance with a federal agency or want to share your thoughts on legislation, don’t hesitate to reach out. Call us at (202) 225-6411 or visit my website for more information.

Stay connected! Follow me on Facebook, X, and Instagram for updates on my work in Washington and across the district.

As always, I’m honored to represent the Lehigh Valley and the Poconos.



SLATE BELT RISING



RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Residential and Commercial Façade Improvement Programs are designed to help improve the exterior appearance and condition of residential and commercial properties within the four boroughs. The program’s goals are to maintain historical and architectural integrity, improve neighborhood appearance, and help property owners make exterior repairs to their homes or businesses while increasing property values for all borough residents.



ABOUT SLATE BELT RISING

Slate Belt Rising is a neighborhood revitalization initiative designed to integrate and capitalize on the substantial assets of the individual Slate Belt boroughs of Wind Gap, Pen Argyl, Bangor, and Portland. While Slate Belt Rising specifically targets these four boroughs, some initiatives promote development and coordination of services throughout the entire region.

More information is available on our website under the Services tab, including program guidelines and applications Visit slatebeltrising.org.

PROGRAM OF COMMUNITY ACTION

Community Action Lehigh Valley is an anti-poverty non-profit offering programs and services in Advocacy, Business Start-Up and Development, Food Access and Nutrition, Housing, Neighborhood Revitalization, and Youth.



Contact Brian Fenstermaker at bfenstermaker@caclv.org or 484-523-0900 with any questions.



Affordable Housing Available

2 and 3 Bedroom Duplex Units Available For Purchase

Warren County Habitat for Humanity Franklin Township Phase 2 Project
2537 Route 57
Franklin Township, NJ
Call 908-835-1300, ext. 10



Conceptual Rendering

Purchase Price Ranges
From \$129,626 to \$168,858 for a 2-Bedroom (1,257sf)
&
From \$151,590 to \$197,025 for a 3-Bedroom (1,455sf)
(anticipated occupancy early-mid 2026)

Maximum Income Limits

# Persons	2	3	4	5	6
Moderate Income (2-3BR & 1-2BR available)	\$82,836	\$93,380	\$103,533	\$113,816	\$128,008
Low Income (0-2BR & 1-3BR available)	\$51,766	\$58,397	\$64,708	\$69,885	\$75,061

PRELIMINARY APPLICATIONS CAN BE REQUESTED BY CALLING (908-835-1300 EXT.10), OR PROVIDE YOUR NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS TO US AT:
WARREN COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
31 BELVIDERE AVENUE
WASHINGTON, NJ 07882
office@habitatwcnj.org

VISIT www.NJHRC.gov FOR MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES
APPLICATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED UNTIL JUNE 13, 2025
(Mortgage Application Fee is \$20)
Lottery will be held at our office on JUNE 12, 2025 at 4:00PM

