



Official Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 5, 2025

Yavapai-Apache Nation Reaffirms Commitment to Maintain WIC and SNAP Support for Tribal Members

CAMP VERDE, AZ — In response to the ongoing federal government shutdown and its potential impact on nutrition assistance programs, the Yavapai-Apache Nation Council remains committed to ensuring that all Tribal members continue to have access to essential food and nutrition support.

The Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the community **to maintain Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program funding through the end of 2025**. In addition, the Nation is **actively working to stabilize and strengthen Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) resources** through local coordination and securing additional funding.

The Yavapai-Apache Nation is implementing the following measures to support members and families:

- Developing contingency plans to secure funding to supplement reductions in federal assistance.
- Maintaining food bank operations and community food distribution.
- Supporting Community Health Representatives (CHR) in providing as much uninterrupted service as possible.
- Coordinating with state and federal partners to ensure timely updates and clarity on available assistance.
- Collaborating with regional food distribution centers in the Verde Valley and Metro Phoenix area to expand access to optional food and emergency support.
- Advocating at the state legislature on initiative that will positively impact the well-being of our community and members.

The Council remains steadfast in its commitment to protect the health, dignity, and well-being of our people. These programs play a critical role in supporting families, elders, and individuals throughout our community, ensuring access to nutritious food and promoting household stability during these uncertain times.

The Nation will continue to monitor the situation and provide forthcoming updates.

*"We understand the uncertainty this period may bring, and we want every member of our community to know that **the Nation stands with you**,"* said Buddy Rocha Jr., Chairman of the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

Community Need and Impact:

- The unemployment rate within the Nation is 8.6%, more than double the statewide average (4.1%).
- The current Tribal poverty rate stands at 46.5%, compared to 12.6% statewide.
- 110 Tribal families are enrolled in the WIC program.
- The Yavapai-Apache Nation Food Bank provides monthly support to 980 people serving 270 households.
- In 2024, the Nation's Social Services Department provided 16,893 services, many addressing food, emergency, and family assistance needs.

Tribal members seeking assistance or additional information regarding food and nutrition programs are encouraged to contact the following Yavapai-Apache Nation Services:

WIC: 928-649-7120	CHR: 928-649-7133	Food Bank: 928-649-7125	Social Services: 928-649-7106
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Thank you for your continued strength and unity. Together, we remain committed to protecting the health and well-being of the Yavapai-Apache people.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Buddy Rocha Jr."

Buddy Rocha, Jr.
Chairman, Yavapai-Apache Nation