

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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GROWING
HOPE



Growing Hope Launches Emergency “Ypsi Market SNAP Gap” to Support Families During Federal SNAP Halt

YPSILANTI, MI — With the federal halt of November SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) distributions, thousands of local families face an immediate gap in food access. In response, **Growing Hope** and the **Ypsilanti Farmers Markets** have launched the **Ypsi Market SNAP Gap**. This emergency initiative ensures that Ypsilanti residents can continue to access healthy, affordable food **until federal SNAP benefits are reinstated**.

*“We are the safety net,” said **Julius Buzzard, Executive Director of Growing Hope**.*

“When the systems built to care for people fail, our community steps forward to weave that net ourselves.”

Program Launch & Schedule

- **Kickoff: Saturday, November 1**, at the **B-Cubed Bakery Mini Market** in Ypsilanti.
- **Ongoing: Every Saturday thereafter** at the **Indoor Ypsilanti Farmers Market**, continuing **until federal SNAP benefits resume**.

How It Works

- Shoppers presenting a valid **EBT/Bridge Card** receive **\$40 in SNAP Gap tokens per week**.
- Tokens can be spent on **any food items**, including fresh produce, hot foods, and prepared meals.
- Tokens are valid **through March 2026** and are **usable only at Ypsilanti Farmers Markets**.

Additional Support: Double Up Food Bucks (DUFb)

The **Double Up Food Bucks** program remains active through **December 31**, but will not be available at the **B-Cubed Bakery Mini Market on November 1**.

- Starting afterward, DUFb will be available at the **Indoor Ypsilanti Farmers Market**.
- There is **no daily limit** on matches, and every SNAP dollar spent on Michigan-grown produce will be fully matched.
- DUFb can now be used for **frozen fruits and vegetables** that are free from added sugar, salt, and oil.
- A **\$40 bonus voucher** (no purchase required) will soon be available at Ypsilanti Farmers Markets.

Buzzard noted that this effort keeps local food moving through local hands:

“Each token nourishes a family and supports a farmer. That’s how we resist scarcity by practicing abundance.”

Community Support

This emergency response is made possible through the generous support of corporate and foundation partners, who come alongside individual supporters in our community. Their investment ensures that Ypsilanti families and farmers alike can remain strong during this critical time.

PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Growing Hope is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization focused on strengthening and supporting the local food system throughout the community and beyond. We own and operate a demonstration urban farm, fund and staff the Ypsilanti Farmers Markets, and facilitate programming around home and community gardening, preparing fresh, affordable local produce, and food entrepreneurship to youth and adults.