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**FEDERAL AID FOR FOOD STAMP PROGRAM SHOULD HELP
LOUISIANANS**

*State Budget Watchdog and a Respected Charity Ask State to Spend Funds as
Congress Intends*

BATON ROUGE—The number of Louisiana residents receiving food stamps grew by more than a million between FY2008 and the first half of FY2010, sharply increasing the cost of administering this vital program. In response, the 2010 Federal budget will provide \$7.4 million in additional support for Louisiana’s food stamp program administration.

The [Louisiana Budget Project](#), a nonpartisan group that monitors state spending on behalf of low and moderate-income families, and [Kingsley House](#), a charity serving disadvantaged residents of New Orleans since 1896, sent a joint letter today urging the state to apply these funds promptly so that pending recipient interviews and applications are not delayed.

According to authors Edward Ashworth and Dr. Keith Liederman, Louisiana used last year’s federal funding to offset cuts in state support rather than to provide additional administrative aid, as Congress intended. They cite House Appropriations Committee language clearly denoting the money as “additional funding for state administrative expenses, to speed up processing applications.”

The letter, addressed to Louisiana Commissioner of Administration Angele Davis and Department of Social Services Secretary Kristy Nichols, says these additional resources can reduce the recession’s impact on vulnerable populations and help Louisiana cover rising administrative costs but warns, “Delaying these benefits can increase food insecurity, put more pressure on already stretched charities, and undermine economic stimulus.”

A full transcript of the February 4, 2010 letter is available at [this link](#).