



## ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

### ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY LEGISLAUTRE  
244 FAIR STREET, 6TH FLOOR  
KINGSTON, NY 12401

### MEDIA CONTACT INFORMATION

• PHONE 845-340-3900  
\* EMAIL [LegislativeNews@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:LegislativeNews@co.ulster.ny.us)  
• FAX 845-340-3651

[Legislature.UlsterCountyNY.gov](http://Legislature.UlsterCountyNY.gov)

### **For Immediate Release:**

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### **Statement From Chair Peter Criswell On Pause of Federal Support For Vital County Programs**

The recent executive order pausing federal funding is a shocking and deeply concerning development,” said Peter Criswell, Chair of the Ulster County Legislature. “This decision could have devastating consequences for our community, affecting essential programs that provide housing, public safety, senior services, childcare, and more. Ulster County relies on approximately \$60 million annually in federal funding to support these vital services, and the uncertainty created by this freeze places countless residents at risk.

As Chair of the Legislature, I want to assure our residents that we are monitoring this situation closely. The Legislature will work hand in hand with County Executive Metzger to assess the local impact and take immediate steps to mitigate harm. We stand ready to advocate for our community, support legal challenges to this decision, and collaborate with state and federal leaders to protect the programs and services our residents depend on.

Ulster County receives \$11.4 million from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which shelters more than 500 adults and children in emergency housing every night.

Jeff Collins, Chair of the newly formed Housing and Transportation Standing Committee, stated, “The suspension of these funds places these unhoused members of our community at risk of being on the street.”

This funding freeze not only threatens the well-being of our most vulnerable neighbors but also undermines our shared values of equity, inclusion, and sustainability.

Ulster County will not waver in its commitment to protect the rights and opportunities of all who call our community home. I encourage residents to stay informed, reach out to your representatives, and lend your voice to this critical issue. Together, we will ensure our county, and its people receive the resources they need and deserve.

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