MEMORANDUM

TO: DuPage County Board Members

FROM: County Board Chair Deborah A. Conroy

DATE: March 3, 2026

RE: Seniors' DriveThru Meal Pilot Program Income Eligibility

The DuPage County Board approved JPS-R-0006-25 on May 25, 2025, to establish a pilot program for a Seniors' DriveThru Meal Pilot Program to be administered by the DuPage County Sheriff's Office. As part of that resolution, income eligibility requirements were put in place to ensure only the neediest residents were receiving meals.

After a few months of distribution, the turnout has been lower than anticipated. Seniors have provided feedback to the Sheriff's Office indicating the income threshold established by the County Board may be too restrictive.

The County opted to follow income requirements established through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The Illinois Department of Human Services provides food to local pantries through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which operates with different income eligibility restrictions.

LIHEAP eligibility is set at or below 60% of the State Median Income. TEFAP eligibility is set at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. The chart below compares income eligibility for the two programs based on household size.

Monthly Income Eligibility Based on Household Size								
Program	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
TEFAP[1]	$3,913	$5,288	$6,663	$8,038	$9,413	$10,788	$12,163	$13,538
LIHEAP[2]	$3,332	$4,357	$5,382	$6,407	$7,432	$8,457	$8,649	$8,842

I intend to put a resolution on the March 10 agenda changing the income eligibility for the Seniors' DriveThru Meal Pilot Program to match the income eligibility of TEFAP. This change may result in the need for more funding to support the program. I have asked staff to monitor spending levels to determine if additional funding is needed for this program.

1 https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30366
2 https://www.dupagecounty.gov/liheap