



SNAP Cuts in the New Congress

January 8th, 2025 | 11:30 AM CT

HOUSEKEEPING

- **Welcome!**
- **This webinar will be recorded. The recording and slides will be emailed to registered participants by January 10th, 2025.**
- **The last 15 minutes of this webinar will be Q&A.**
- **Please introduce yourself by putting your name, organization, and county in the chat.**

Disclaimer

The Tennessee Justice Center is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization that is non-partisan and non-political. The clients we serve, and the partners with whom we work, represent the state's diversity of political affiliation. Our political analyses relate solely to the defense of health and nutrition programs and do not imply endorsement or disapproval of any party or person.

SPEAKERS



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AGENDA

- **Welcome & Introductions**
- **Recap of planned cuts to SNAP & impact on TN**
- **Latest intel re. congressional developments**
- **Q&A**
- **Closing**

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)



Signe Anderson

Senior Director of Nutrition Advocacy

SNAP Feeds Tennessean

Most effective anti-hunger program in the United States

- **Fed 750,000 Tennesseans** on an average month in 2024
- **71%** - TN households with children
- **35%** - TN seniors and individuals with disabilities
- **37%** - Working Tennesseans

SNAP Dollar\$:

- **\$6/day** average amount that an eligible individual receives
- **\$23/month** lowest benefit amount
- **\$143 million** in federal funds distributed to TN households in November 2024.

Protect SNAP – Likely Targets

~~SNAP Replacement Benefits~~

~~Assisting households whose benefits are stolen by organized criminal rings/skimming~~

Work Requirements - Limit SNAP for underemployed

Adequate Benefits – Thrifty Food Plan (TFP)

Benefits were adjusted after a USDA study, increasing benefits for SNAP participants

Harm to Immigrant Families



SNAP: Current/Breaking News

Fiscal Budget – End of Year Spending Package Decided on December 20)

- Short term Farm Bill Extension
- Major cut to SNAP victims of skimming theft

2022 Congress passed rule to reimburse SNAP households targeted by criminal rings

- **Skimming** – type of electronic theft, places illegal device on card swiping machine or ATM
- **11,000 TN** Households have had benefits stolen



Impact on Tennesseans

Client Stories – Skimming/SNAP Theft

- Houseless individual in Nashville lost 2 months of benefits
- Tennessee mom had \$760 swiped from her EBT card. Benefits were used in Pennsylvania.

“How in the world are me and my kids going to eat? It’s devastating and shocking.”

Over \$1.8 million in SNAP benefits have been reimbursed to families.



Next Steps on Protecting SNAP Families

- Urge Trump administration to work with Congress to reverse this misstep; Continue to reimburse families whose food benefits are stolen!
- Share info with current SNAP recipients – measures to protect their card
- Urge Congress to protect SNAP families in Budget Reconciliation
- Urge Gov. Lee to put forward state legislation to protect SNAP cards & reimburse TN families until the federal gov. fixes this

TAKE ACTION

Work Requirement - SNAP Time Limit

Limits people ages 18 to 54 to just 3 months on SNAP if they are not meeting work requirements (working 20 hours/week)

- Trump Admin may target this rule to make it harsher; making it even more difficult for people to access SNAP

Why the SNAP work requirement doesn't work:

- Deprives people who struggle to work of basic need
- People who are eligible, are denied
- Immense administrative burden
- Costly to implement and train staff
- Does not encourage work; prevents people from participating in SNAP

Impact on Tennesseans

Work Requirements - 37% - Working Tennesseans participate in SNAP.

# of Tennesseans	Types of Workers
98,300	Service workers = cooks, home healthcare
39,900	Manufacturing workers
39,200	Customer service
37,800	Laborers, drivers
36,700	Sales = cashiers, retail

Many underemployed or struggling to find work, are hungry and barred from participating in SNAP



Reducing SNAP Dollars to Families

Proposed *\$30 billion dollar* cut to SNAP benefits

- **\$6/day** average amount that an eligible individual receives
- **\$23/month** lowest benefit amount
- **\$185/month** is the average

Fewer benefits...

- Increases hunger
- Creates barriers to eating healthy
- Impacts health – reduces medicine adherence
- Increases economic burden

\$1.8 billion = SNAP dollars to families in 2022

- 6400 groceries in Tennessee
- Every \$1.00 in SNAP = \$1.50 in economic activity

Harm to Immigrant Families

Most immigrant households are not eligible for SNAP without a green card + 5 year wait period

- Refugees, asylees, victims of trafficking
- Children born in the US in mixed status families are eligible for SNAP
- Fear of public charge and government leads to eligible people not applying
- Impacts other safety net programs: WIC, School Meals etc.

Join Protecting Immigrant Families (PIF) campaign: Defend access to health and social safety net programs

Take Action

Connect with partners – many different voices must weigh in

Engage Impacted Individuals

Collect/Share stories – positive and practical impact SNAP that SNAP has on families must be highlighted

Contact legislators – Why are these programs important to you and your community? bring/share stories from constituents



Other Pressing Issues:

There is still time to save S-EBT in 2025! Act now:

- 1) Urge Governor Lee & Commissioner Carter - [send a letter/individual sign-on](#)
- 2) Share a story about how S-EBT helps families – [Here](#)
- 3) Join the [S-EBT partners group](#)
- 4) Check out the [TJC story map](#) and learn more!

Q&A

- 1. Look for the Q&A icon in the taskbar**
- 2. Click the Q&A icon to see the questions text box**
- 3. Type your question into the text box**
- 4. Choose whether to submit your question with your name attached or anonymously**
- 5. Click send**

Contact your legislators!

Help protect Medicaid and SNAP by contacting Senator Marsha Blackburn, Senator Bill Hagerty, and your other members of Congress TODAY!



Organization Sign-on Letter

We encourage your organization to sign the following letter to defend Medicaid and SNAP. The letter will be sent to all Federal Representatives and Senators from Tennessee.

The deadline for signatures is 12:00pm CT, Friday, January 24, 2025!



Share our factsheet!

MEDICAID AND SNAP ARE IN DANGER ACT NOW TO PROTECT AMERICA'S SAFETY NET!

What's Happening?

A budget plan with deep tax cuts will be adopted in the early part of 2025, possibly as early as January. But leaders are already developing the plan right now. To pay for those tax cuts, **they intend to slash Medicaid ("TennCare" in Tennessee) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as "food stamps")**. If that budget includes cuts to Medicaid and SNAP as leaders plan, Congress will likely cripple those programs and use the savings to pay for the big tax cuts.

Why Should I Care?

Medicaid is a lifeline for the most medically fragile children and adults in Tennessee. It is the principal source of funding for rural health care and drug and mental health treatment and prevention. Any cuts to Medicaid will damage our communities, impact every part of our state budget, and weaken Tennessee's economy.

SNAP (formerly known as "food stamps") is the most effective anti-hunger program in the United States. Cuts to SNAP would harm the state economy as well as families who rely on the program.

CRITICAL IMPACT

Every dollar spent on SNAP generates between **\$1.50 to \$1.80** in local economic activity during economic downturn.

Nearly three out of four SNAP households are families with children.

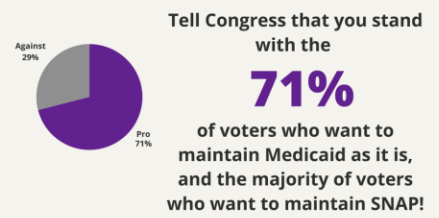


One in five Tennesseeans relies on Medicaid (TennCare) for health care and for protection from medical bankruptcy.

This includes...

half of all TN children, two-thirds of Tennesseeans in nursing homes, half of pregnant mothers

TAKE ACTION NOW!



CONTACT CONGRESS

Please scan this QR code to easily email Sen. Blackburn, Sen. Hagerty and your Member of Congress!



Updated: 12/16/2024

[or visit www.tnjustice.org/joinus](http://www.tnjustice.org/joinus)



Share your story!

Share how SNAP has impacted you and your family. Your personal story in this healthcare system is a critical tool in changing the hearts and minds of decision-makers, and TJC is here to support you in amplifying that story.



CONTACT US





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BEFORE YOU GO...

- **Reminder: Recording will be emailed to you all by January 10th, 2025.**
- **Take two mins to complete [this post-webinar survey!](#)**
- **[Follow us on socials!](#)**

THANK YOU!