



Response to Medicaid and SNAP Cuts

December 11th, 2024 | 11:30 AM CT

HOUSEKEEPING

- **Welcome!**
- **This webinar will be recorded. The recording and slides will be emailed to registered participants by December 13th, 2024.**
- **The last 15 minutes of this webinar will be Q&A.**
- **Please introduce yourself by putting your name, organization and county in the chat.**

SPEAKERS



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Chief Strategy Officer



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Senior Director of Nutrition
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Anne Dobson Ball
WIC Partnership &
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AGENDA

- **Welcome & Introductions**
- **Medicaid Presentation**
- **SNAP Presentation**
- **Q&A**
- **Closing**

MEDICAID



Gordon Bonnyman

Staff Attorney, TJC Co-Founder

Heads up: Not your uncle's Federal Budget Cuts!

- **BIG**
- *Fast!*
- **Encrypted**

Promises to be kept

- **Congress convenes January 3rd**
- **President takes office January 20th**
- **Their No.1 priority – Tax Cuts**

Congress will pay for tax cuts by slashing Medicaid and SNAP

- **Congressional leaders & the Trump administration have said so**
- **Rules require “pay-fors” to offset lost tax revenues**
- **With Medicare & Social Security protected, no cuts to other domestic programs generate enough money**

“Move fast and break things”

Lessons learned in 2017:

- **Move fast before programs’ constituents can publicize the impact on ordinary people and businesses**
- **Downplay the changes to hide impact and avoid backlash**

Budget Reconciliation Process

- **Congress adopts resolution soon, telling committees where to make cuts and how much to cut**
- **Why will Congress use Budget Reconciliation**
- **Instructions will be adopted as soon as January, no later than April**

WHAT IF cuts to Medicaid and/or SNAP are in the Budget Resolution?

- **That lights a fuse that leads to program changes that will drive drastic, perhaps irreversible damage to the health care and food safety net**
- **Stopping the cuts becomes much more difficult if cuts are mandated by budget instructions**

They use Camouflage and Complexity

- **Work requirements and other red tape**
- **Block grants**
- **Per capita caps**
- **Reductions in federal match**
- **Roll-back of Medicaid Expansion**
- **Limit or eliminate state provider taxes**



We use Simplicity & Strength

Don't get lost in the complexity. Focus on the bottom line:

Cutting Medicaid and SNAP hurts:

- **Families**
- **Hospitals and nursing homes**
- **The economy and entire communities**
- **Fuels medical debt**

Get thousands to repeat that message!

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)



Signe Anderson

Senior Director of Nutrition Advocacy

SNAP: Need to Know

Lame Duck Session

Fiscal Budget – End of Year Spending Package (Must be decided by December 20)

- Short term Farm Bill Extension
- Disaster Supplemental
- Short Term Appropriations



Protect SNAP – Likely Targets

- **SNAP Replacement Benefits**
 - Assisting households whose benefits are stolen by organized criminal rings/skimming
- **Adequate Benefits – Thrifty Food Plan (TFP)**
 - Benefits were adjusted after a USDA study increasing benefits for SNAP participants
- **Food Choice**
 - Efforts to limit food purchases of SNAP hhs
- **Limiting SNAP for Underemployed/Work Requirements**

Budget Reconciliation and SNAP

Next Admin's Goals for Reconciliation:

- Extend tax cuts
- Boost U.S. Energy Production
- Fund the Border Wall
- Repeal Former Administration Policies
- Shrink Federal Agencies

What does this mean for SNAP:

- SNAP policies reversed or do not move forward:
 - Funding for skimming reimbursements
 - Reduced benefit amounts
- Fewer staff/less funding to administer the program

Three Action Steps

1. **Connect with partners – many different voices must weigh in**
2. **Collect/Share stories – positive and practical impact SNAP that SNAP has on families must be highlighted**
3. **Talk to legislators about SNAP - bring/share stories from constituents**

Other Pressing Issues:

TN will lose S-EBT in 2025 unless we act now:

- 1) Urge Governor Lee & Commissioner Carter - [send a letter/individual sign-on](#)
- 2) Join the Organizational Sign-on - [Here](#)
- 3) Save the Children – [Add your name to the petition](#)
- 4) Share a story about how S-EBT helps families – [Here](#)
- 5) Write an Op-ED
- 6) Join the [S-EBT partners group](#)
- 7) Check out the [TJC story map](#) and learn more!

Q&A

We MUST protect Medicaid & SNAP!

We did it in 2017 and will follow the same playbook now:

- Make sure people know these cuts will touch all of us.
- Tell Congress not to use Medicaid and SNAP to pay for tax cuts
- Convince Congress that Medicaid and SNAP are kryptonite:
“If you want tax cuts, don’t tie them to unpopular cuts to Medicaid & SNAP.”

Both a Sprint AND a Marathon

- It's a sprint to keep Medicaid and SNAP cuts out of the Budget Reconciliation process as early as January.
- This battle will likely continue throughout 2025, with a second Budget Reconciliation resolution in later months, so we need to prepare for marathon effort
- The good news: If we can protect the safety net in 2025, the threat is much diminished in 2026

Action steps to take *NOW!*

- Immediately contact [your Member of Congress](#)
- Immediately contact [Senator Marsha Blackburn](#) and [Senator Bill Hagerty](#)
- Tell them you are one of the [70% of Americans who want to maintain Medicaid as is](#)
- Tell them you are with the [nearly 2 out of 3 conservative consumers](#) who support federal food programs
- Share [our fact sheet](#) with friends, family, and organizations!
- Ask your organization to share the word!

CONTACT US

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Call to Action!

Contact your legislators!



UPCOMING EVENTS



**Winter
Resource Fair**
December 20th, 2024 | 12 PM - 2 PM

No Registration Needed!



**Health Care Cuts in the
New Congress**
January 7th, 2025 | 11:30 AM CST

[Register Here](#)



**SNAP Cuts in the New
Congress**
January 8th, 2025 | 11:30 AM CST

[Register Here](#)

View more upcoming events at tnjustice.org/events

BEFORE YOU GO...

- **Reminder: Recording will be emailed to you all by December 20th, 2024**
- **Take two mins to complete [this post-webinar survey!](#)**
- **[Follow us on socials!](#)**

THANK YOU!