

## 2025 Congressional Lobby Request

# Protect SNAP and Medicaid from cuts

In 2025, Congress is looking to pass legislation that would be disastrous for Americans struggling in poverty. To pay for tax cuts for the wealthy and other priorities, lawmakers want to cut vital anti-poverty programs that serve tens of millions of Americans.

### **SNAP helps individuals and families lift themselves from poverty**

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is America's last line of defense against hunger. SNAP provides 40 million people per month — nearly half of them children — the resources to buy food. Despite modest amounts (average less than \$7 per day per person), SNAP gave 3.4 million people the tools to lift themselves above the poverty line in 2023. Eighty percent of those who receive SNAP are families with children, seniors, and persons with a disability.

### **Medicaid provides critical health care to millions of Americans**

Medicaid is America's largest health insurance program, serving over 70 million Americans. It helps people with low incomes get basic health care for them and their families. Medicaid covers 40 percent of children born in the U.S. (50 percent in rural communities). Medicaid is also the only way seniors with low incomes can get long-term nursing care. Medicaid also costs taxpayers less than Medicare and private health insurance.

### **SNAP and Medicaid are not ATMs to pay for tax cuts or other priorities**

Leaders in Congress are proposing reconciliation bills in 2025. The bills are expected to focus on immigration enforcement, defense spending, and extending tax cuts. Republican leaders in the House and Senate want deep cuts to SNAP and Medicaid to pay for those other priorities. These changes could be new work reporting requirements, benefit cuts, or caps on funding. Regardless of the form, the impact would be devastating. Tens of millions of people could lose access to health care and basic food assistance. This will put lives at risk, increase poverty, and devastate communities — particularly rural communities — around the country.

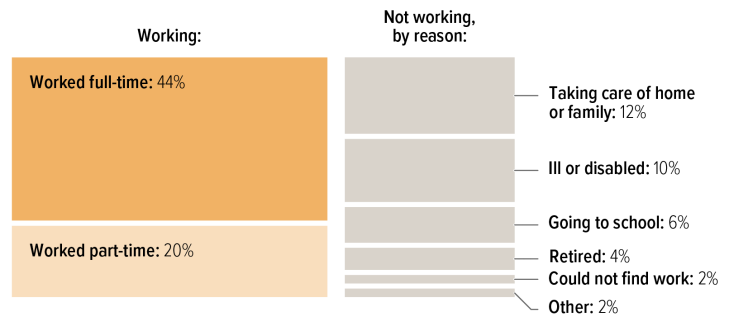
**Please urge House and Senate leadership to protect SNAP and Medicaid from harmful cuts or changes that deny people access to food and health care. Reject any legislation that cuts SNAP and Medicaid.**

Let's look at work reporting requirements. Most people on Medicaid either work at least part-time, are caring for family, have a disability, or are retired (see Figure 1). Similarly, 51 percent of work-eligible SNAP recipients work while receiving benefits (see Figure 2). Within a year, 74 percent are working (see Figure 2). Most people are already working, why impose new requirements? Because they save money by forcing people out. Reporting work hours — which can involve taking time off work, driving to the eligibility office, waiting in line, and being second-guessed by staff — is not only ineffective, it is demeaning. This is weaponized red tape. Onerous requirements to make it easier to kick people out.

Furthermore, restricting SNAP or Medicaid puts other services at risk like WIC, the food assistance program for women, infants, and children. Since these programs often serve the same people, some states make it easier to enroll. For example, if a new mom is eligible for SNAP and/or Medicaid, she would be automatically enrolled in WIC too. This “broad-based categorical eligibility” ensures she gets what she needs to care for her family, while also saving the government money. But Congress wants to stop states from using this streamlined approach. As a result, she could lose services, putting her and her child's health at risk.

SNAP and Medicaid provide critical services to millions of Americans who struggle to make ends meet. Taking health care and food away from people won't save money or promote work. It will increase hardship. Congress must put families first, not billionaires. **Please reject cuts and other harmful changes to SNAP and Medicaid in upcoming reconciliation bills.**

### Most Adults With Medicaid Work – And Those Who Don't Mainly Are Caring for Family, Ill or Disabled, or Going to School



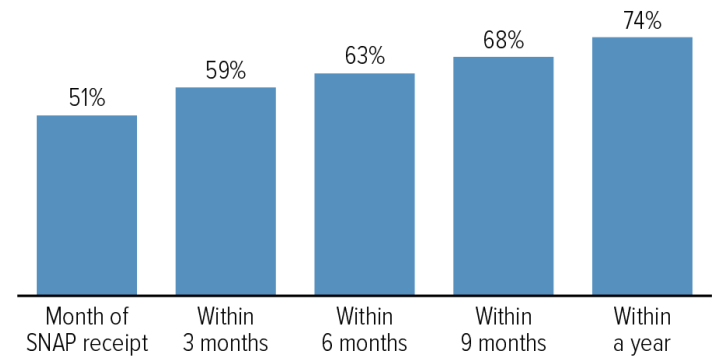
Note: Percent who worked in 2023, and reasons for not working among those who did not work. Responses are among adults aged 19-64 with Medicaid coverage who did not receive Supplemental Security Income and were not covered by Medicare. Full-time work is defined as 35 hours or more per week. Source: CBPP analysis of March 2024 Current Population Survey

Figure 1

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### 74 Percent of Adults Potentially Subject to the Time Limit Work in Year Before or After Receiving SNAP

Work participation during and after typical month of SNAP receipt



Source: CBPP Analysis of 2014 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) panel data

Figure 2

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