



October 2025: Fund programs that keep Americans out of poverty

In July, Congress passed the “One Big Beautiful Bill” Act. The ramifications could include fifteen million people losing health insurance provided through Medicaid and other supports. Rural hospitals are undoubtedly at risk. New Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) work requirements threaten nutrition access for up to 4 million, including foster youth, children not in stable housing, and even veterans. And 19 million children won’t receive the full Child Tax Credit due to parents not earning enough. Current acts of funding rescissions threaten Americans further.

In response to this, we must speak up for crucial funding in the FY26 budget. Specifically, we are working to protect Housing Choice Vouchers; Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and more. Congress may wish to enact a year-long continuing resolution, or additional rescissions may be enacted by the administration. These undermine the credibility of lawmakers and congressional power. We cannot allow the politicization of the budget and stand by while good faith governance and the safety of the American people are at risk.

As we near the start of the new fiscal year, please urge House and Senate leaders to enact a bipartisan budget. That budget must adequately fund housing, nutrition, and education programs. Below is a sample message to Congress that you can build on. Customize it for an email exchange, a phone call, or a lobby meeting. Each of the bullet points below are a suggestion to help you personalize your message. Use our EPIC format to create a crisp and powerful message to your legislators today.

EPIC: Engage, state the **P**roblem, **I**nform on the solution, and **C**all to action.

Messages to Congress in support of a fiscal year (FY)26 budget that supports Americans

Engage: I am disappointed that we did not see progress in reducing poverty last year, due in part to a dead-locked Congress. The current economy and the effects of the “One Big Beautiful Bill” Act worry me greatly. They undoubtedly will make poverty in this country worse.

Problem: For example, because of the enactment of the bill, 4 million children and 500,000 seniors and adults with disabilities will lose access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

More facts:

- Information from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities:
<https://www.cbpp.org/research/state-budget-and-tax/harmful-republican-megabill-fails-families-children-and-communities-0>
- Information from the Center for American Progress:
<https://www.americanprogress.org/press/release-state-fact-sheets-on-how-the-trump-administrations-one-big-beautiful-bill-act-will-drive-up-costs-for-american-families/>
- New U.S. Census poverty data:
<https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2025/demo/p60-287.html>

Inform: The FY26 budget is an opportunity to stand for American individuals and families. Congress can stand up for the full funding of essential anti-poverty programs like Housing Choice Vouchers and WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children).

Call to action: Please adequately fund vital basic needs and anti-poverty programs in the FY26 budget. Uphold congressional power of the purse for the good of Americans.