

A photograph showing two women in a food pantry. One woman, wearing a colorful patterned shirt, is reaching into a box on a shelf. The other woman, wearing a black shirt, is standing next to her, looking at something in her hands. The shelves are stocked with various food items, including boxes of Colgate toothpaste and other packaged goods.

Food Security, SNAP, and Urging Congress to Support Legislation that Reverses Harmful Food Assistance Cuts

On July 4, 2025, President Trump signed into law the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” (OBBBA). The “BBB” impacts all Americans but introduces several key provisions that will negatively impact refugees, asylum-seekers, and other new neighbors.

The BBB will: strip refugees, asylees, humanitarian parolees, and other humanitarian entrants from accessing Medicaid, Medicare, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP - also known as Food Stamps), the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) marketplace, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

As current and former clients, community partners, and faith allies of Church World Service, you need to know how the BBB will impact you and those in your community. As always, CWS staff is available for additional information on a case-by-case basis.

This resource focuses on one key provisions of the BBB: Access to food assistance and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Access to Food Assistance/SNAP

Under the BBB, refugees and other humanitarian entrants will no longer be eligible for food assistance programs like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). Green Card holders (e.g. Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders), as well as Cuban and Haitian entrants, are NOT impacted and will continue to be able to access SNAP if otherwise eligible.

These provisions went into effect when the bill was signed into law on July 4, 2025. Federal guidelines allow up to four months for states to implement SNAP eligibility changes, and current SNAP recipients are unlikely to be impacted until their next recertification. Different states may implement the changes at different times. CWS will provide additional updates as states implement their SNAP eligibility changes.

CWS' Point of View

Hunger is a policy choice. The [budget reconciliation bill](#) President Trump signed into law on July 4 includes the largest cut to food assistance in history. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the bill is set to cut \$187 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), leaving more than 2.4 million Americans without desperately needed food assistance. An Urban Institute [analysis](#) found over 22 million U.S. families stand to lose at least some SNAP benefits.

SNAP currently provides basic food assistance to more than [40 million Americans](#), including 16 million children, 8 million seniors, and 4 million adults with disabilities. The sweeping restrictions that are set to go into effect will impact everyone who relies on SNAP, restricting eligibility, reducing benefits, and increasing the burden on states that already struggle to operate an underfunded program.

Targeting Refugees: One provision in the reconciliation legislation (H.R. 1, or the so-called “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”) goes out of its way to target vulnerable newcomers. The bill [completely excludes](#) otherwise-eligible refugees and humanitarian entrants from eligibility for SNAP. The impacted refugee population includes resettled refugees and asylees who do not yet have green cards, TPS holders, humanitarian parolees, survivors of domestic violence, and others.

Take Action

Urgent action is needed: Barring intervention from Congress, the impact of these cuts will be felt by our communities in the coming weeks and months. State governments are awaiting federal guidance right now on the first of many SNAP restrictions and changes, and in some cases they are preparing for [special legislative sessions](#) to try to find ways to fill in the gaps.

How to advocate with your members of Congress:

The *Restoring Food Security for American Families and Farmers Act* is a soon-to-be-introduced bill that would reverse the harmful cuts to food assistance in the reconciliation bill. In addition, Congress is set to begin work this fall on the Farm Bill, a package of legislation that needs to be updated roughly every five years and is the centerpiece for federal food assistance programs, both in the United States and overseas. Both pieces of legislation provide a critical opportunity to advocate for policies that protect and strengthen food security for families in need.

CWS is calling on all voters, those committed to combating hunger injustice, and community members to contact their members of Congress and urge them to support legislation reversing devastating SNAP cuts and to refuse to move forward with a Farm Bill until all the hunger-related impacts of H.R. 1 are fully addressed.



For more information on SNAP and how to contact your member of Congress, visit cwsglobal.org.