



The Safety Net Advocacy Coalition (SNAC) works to defend and strengthen Florida’s safety net programs. These programs include but are not limited to; Medicaid, Reemployment Assistance (Unemployment Insurance), SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or food assistance), TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or cash assistance), and WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children).

This policy agenda outlines administrative and legislative policies that SNAC members are following or taking action around in 2026. The policy agenda summarizes key policies and may develop further as the safety net policy landscape in Florida also evolves.

Federal Policy

Below is federal legislation that impacts safety net programs.

1. Farm Bill

Many members of Congress have signaled their intent to take up the Farm Bill in early 2026. SNAC will monitor — and when appropriate — will engage in advocacy around the next Farm Bill, giving Congress the opportunity to increase SNAP benefit levels, improve access, and reverse the harmful SNAP provisions in [H.R.1](#). Several important issues have emerged, including restrictions on food choice; benefit amounts; work requirements; streamlining excess medical deductions; and the eligibility of college students, certain immigrants, and people with felony drug convictions.

2. U.S. Playbook to Address Social Determinants of Health

The Biden Administration proposed a number of strategies affecting safety net programs in the [U.S. Playbook to Address Social Determinants of Health](#). Although the federal administration has changed, the playbook can still serve as a guide for addressing individual and community social needs through innovative solutions.

3. Federal Funding Cuts

[H.R.1](#) — the federal reconciliation bill that became law on July 4, 2025 — cut nearly [\\$1 trillion](#) of health care spending, as well as [\\$187 billion](#) from SNAP. These cuts — along with the expiring enhanced tax credits in Marketplace insurance — will [increase the amount of uninsured Floridians](#), sliding backwards to pre-Affordable Care Act levels. The bill also unnecessarily imposes [new restrictions on eligibility requirements](#) that limit access to nutrition assistance for people who are the most in need. Unless Congress backs away from the cuts in H.R.1, health coverage loss and reduced food assistance will devastate many low-income families over the next ten years.

State Policy

Administrative Advocacy

Administrative advocacy focuses on making changes to how safety net program policies are implemented by appealing to the state agencies responsible for administering them.

1. Oppose Cuts Related to Florida’s Medicaid Program

Fifty-five organizations have signed onto the [Statement of Principles: Protecting Florida’s Medicaid Program](#). The statement details the importance and value of Medicaid in our state and encourages other organizations to adopt these principles and statistics in their messaging for protecting Medicaid in Florida.

2. Implement the Expansion of Florida KidCare

In 2023, the Florida Legislature passed [HB 121](#), a measure that expanded eligibility for the state’s Child Health Care Insurance Program (CHIP), also known as KidCare. The measure was designed to broadly increase the number of children who are eligible for subsidized health insurance, by increasing the income limits and enabling more families to qualify. The program covers children in families with incomes that are too high to qualify for Medicaid, and children in families with employer-sponsored insurance that may not include coverage for their children. The changes to Florida’s CHIP program would have provided lower premium payments to an additional [42,000 currently uninsured children](#) with household incomes between 200 and 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). To date, [Kidcare has not been expanded](#) due to initial administrative errors by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), as well as an ongoing lawsuit between the DeSantis administration and the federal government. Families that could potentially benefit from the KidCare expansion will continue to wait for coverage or pay higher costs for their children’s health care.

3. Minimize the Impact of Expanded Mandatory E&T

Florida expanded its [mandatory SNAP Employment and Training \(E&T\)](#) program in December 2023 to include SNAP participants aged 53 through 59 who do not meet an exemption. This expansion is in addition to current mandatory work requirements for nonexempt participants aged 18 through 52. Since more than 7,000 participants had their food assistance taken away as a sanction every month in Florida even before this expansion, it is important to ensure that partners and participants have necessary information about exemptions and good cause so that hungry households do not lose food assistance unnecessarily. For “able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs),” many people up to age 65 also became subject to work requirements [under H.R.1](#). We will continue to work with partners to identify systemic issues that cause participants with [work requirements](#) to lose SNAP and we will advocate for the necessary changes with the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

4. Request that Florida Opt-in to SUN Bucks

The Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer Program ([Summer EBT](#)) — now called SUN Bucks — provides grocery assistance to low-income families with school-aged children when schools are closed for the summer. However, Florida decided not to participate in Summer EBT in both 2024 and 2025, meaning that about [2.1 million children will not be provided \\$259 million](#) in federal food assistance this upcoming summer. Although the state chose not to provide this food assistance program to children, SNAC will continue advocating for the program to be implemented before the summer of 2026. While Florida is among only a handful of states that have not opted into SUN Bucks for [2026](#), Florida still has a chance to do so if it submits a plan to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) by [February 15, 2026](#).

5. Support Reversal of Restrictions on SNAP Food Choice

[Effective April 20, 2026](#), SNAP participants will be subject to a state-imposed ban on the usage of benefits for soda, energy drinks, candy, and ultra processed prepared desserts. Although SNAP participants understand nutrition and want to serve healthy meals, many are hindered by inadequate benefit allotments, a lack of fresh produce in their neighborhoods, and/or family members who have food allergies or dietary restrictions. There are better strategies that can be implemented to ensure that households are able to maintain a healthy diet. These strategies [include](#) allowing participants to buy hot and prepared foods, increasing how much money people can use in SNAP for healthy foods and beverages, and increasing benefit allotments for food and beverages — regardless of the nutritional value.

Legislative Advocacy

Below are key bills with an active role for SNAC members to lead or support.

1. Oppose Barriers to Safety Net Programs

Oppose bills that reduce or eliminate access to Medicaid, Reemployment Assistance, SNAP, and/or TANF.

- Related bills, Reemployment Assistance:
 - [SB 216](#) (oppose): Expands disqualification grounds for reemployment assistance and requires thorough identity verification to deter fraud
 - [HB 191](#) (oppose): Imposes stricter job search requirements, verification of claimant identities, and implements robust fraud detection measures.
- Related bills, SNAP & Medicaid:
 - [SB 1758](#) / [HB 693](#) (oppose/amend): Implement the state's requirements due to H.R.1, but go beyond federal law and impose harsher restrictions on Medicaid and SNAP participants.

2. Remove the Lifetime SNAP/TANF Ban Placed on Returning Citizens

Florida law prohibits returning citizens with certain drug trafficking offenses from receiving SNAP and TANF, which could provide crucial support for meeting basic needs. [Lifting the ban](#) would provide a smoother transition for returning citizens and reduce chances of reincarceration.

- Related bills: [SB 1462](#) and [HB 1267](#) (support)

3. Remove “Family Cap” for TANF

Florida is one of only [seven states](#) that [denies parents some, or all, TANF benefits for additional children born while they are participating in TANF](#) (also referred to as “family cap”). As a result, many babies in Florida who are born into families with low income go without any help from TANF to meet their basic needs. A [policy brief](#) from Florida Policy Institute indicates that [family cap](#) is rooted in the racist myth that a woman already receiving assistance has more children to receive more benefits. It is an extension of the historical legacy of attempts to exercise reproductive control over Black women.

- Related bills: TBD

4. Establish the Universal Free School Breakfast and Lunch Program

Support establishing a program that provides free school breakfast and lunch meals to all public-school students.

- Related bills: [SB 1098](#) (support)
 - Also see [SB 1674](#) and [HB 1501](#) (requiring that public schools participate in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program).

5. Establish A Hunger-Free Campus Pilot Program

Support establishment of pilot programs in three universities/colleges to fight hunger in public postsecondary institutions by — among other efforts — establishing a student-involved hunger taskforce, designating a staff member to assist students with enrolling in SNAP, and providing options for the use of SNAP on campus or in the local community.

- Related bills: [SB 534](#) (support)

[Long-Term Initiatives](#)

Long-term initiatives require multi-year strategic efforts. Progress can be achieved during the current legislative session by raising awareness among partners and community members, convincing legislators to raise the issue via future legislation and/or other means, working with state agencies to find administrative solutions, or garnering media attention on the issue.

1. Increase TANF Maximum Payment

TANF payments have not increased in Florida [since 1992](#). Increasing TANF payments is crucial to helping families afford the rising costs of necessities like food and housing.

2. Improve Safety Net Program Alignment and Reduce Churn

Eligible Floridians lose benefits when they face barriers during the recertification process for safety net programs. Cross-program alignment and simplification of recertification policies in SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid will reduce barriers and prevent participation churn.

3. Expand Medicaid

Florida needs to expand Medicaid through ballot or legislation to provide better access to affordable health care. The 2028 Ballot Initiative for Medicaid Expansion in Florida is spearheaded by [Florida Decides Healthcare](#).

Other Policy Agendas

This section highlights policy agendas from other organizations and/or coalitions that are of interest to SNAC. Although we will not take an active role in every policy, we will monitor and keep SNAC members informed of relevant information and strategic opportunities.

1. Florida Policy Institute (FPI)

The [2026 Policy Agenda](#) is organized by goals set forth in FPI's [Roadmap to Shared Prosperity](#), featuring categories for healthy communities, a thriving and resilient economy, shared prosperity, and an equitable tax code.

2. Bread for the World

The ["Nourish Our Future" campaign](#) launched in 2025 to address expanding the Child Tax Credit, college hunger, fully funding and strengthening WIC, and robustly funding global nutrition.

3. Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)

[FRAC's "Bills We're Supporting"](#) highlight federal legislation related to school-based programs, SNAP, early childhood, and WIC.

4. MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger

[MAZON's priorities](#) "protect and strengthen the nutrition safety net to ensure that everyone can feed themselves and their families."

Contact Amber Nixon at nixon@floridapolicy.org for more information about contributing to the SNAC policy agenda.