

Today we will talk about:

- Oct 1<sup>st</sup> was a big day, it's the start of a new federal fiscal year and the beginning of when SNAP cuts from HR 1 start to impact states. State legislature must act quickly to approve additional money so Wisconsin can meet the new requirements and keep the state's error rate low.
- The federal government shut down Wed Oct 1st. What's happening and what's next?
- Congress has introduced a bill national disability advocates are concerned would drive much more Medicaid dollars into institutionalization.
- There's continuing uncertainty about whether Congress will extend ACA subsidies.
- Updates on autism research, federal vaccine policy, potential tariffs, draft rules show big changes on who will get federal housing aid, and states struggle to handle SNAP and Medicaid changes coming because of HR 1.

Weekly Update

Oct 3, 2025

## Federal Funding Fallout 2025

# Around Wisconsin

Wisconsin  
has a lot to  
say.

# For a half century, people with disabilities made steady gains. Now, it's collapsing.

- "I go to bed crying because I'm terrified about them reopening institutions. Is this the answer to what politicians want?" Bentley said. "People will die in institutions. My friends died in there. I was thankful to get out."
- "It's so disheartening to see the work advocates have done over the last 50 years has so quickly been undone and so quickly turned into an environment where people feel it's OK to devalue those with disabilities," said Glozier.
- "My husband and I won't be around forever. She requires nursing home-level care," Karcher said. "And I'm also well aware the facilities available are short-staffed."
- "...it certainly doesn't help hearing top politicians and lawmakers question your worthiness and existence," Ellingen said.



JSONLINE.COM

**For a half century, people with disabilities made steady gains. Now, it's collapsing.**

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2025/09/30/disabled-wisconsiners-see-hard-work-social-progress-quickly-trampled/86349199007/>

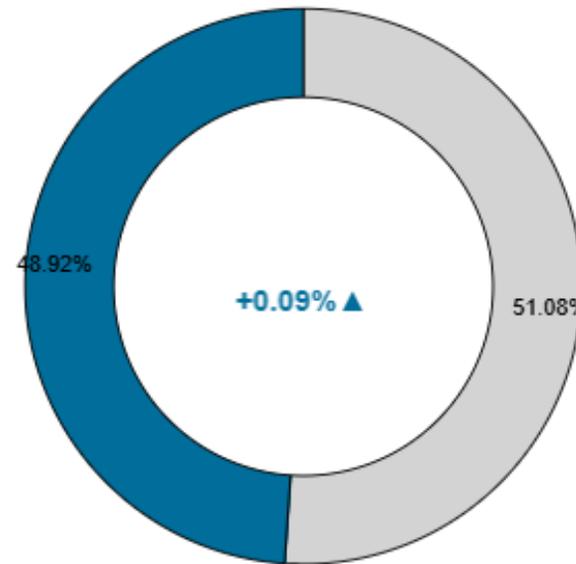
# Many people with disabilities and fixed income older adults rely on SNAP

- 49% of Wisconsin SNAP recipients had a household member that is elderly, blind or disabled.
  - People with low, fixed incomes are especially vulnerable to rising costs of living (housing, prescriptions, food).
  - As other costs go up, people lose jobs, or the economy worsens more people may not be able to afford food without SNAP.

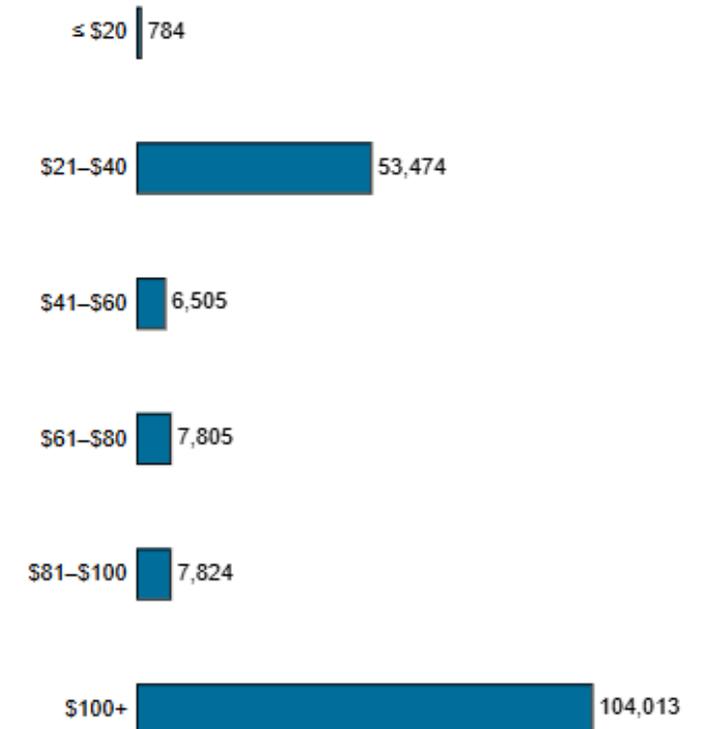
### 3. How many AGs had EBD individuals?

180,405 AGs contained one individual who is EBD. The average allotment for EBD AGs was \$185. However 0.43% of the EBD AGs received an allotment of \$20 or less in August 2025.

% of AGs with Members who are EBD



EBD AGs by Allotment Distribution



# SNAP cuts from HR 1 are starting to impact states, food assistance programs as of Oct 1<sup>st</sup>.

HR 1 expanded “prove you’re working/exempt” requirements to include many more people.

- People ages 18 up to age 65, if there is not a child under age 14 in their home
- Previously exempt groups (homeless, people aging out of foster care) must now prove they are working
- Residents in counties that were exempt because of low numbers of jobs must now prove they are working.
- DHS estimates 43,700 more people in Wisconsin who were exempt will now have to prove they are working
- 50% (21,850) of these people are at high and immediate risk of not being able to prove they are working enough, and are at high risk of losing food assistance

DHS estimates an additional \$20.7 M in state money is needed to implement the prove you’re working/exempt requirements that now apply to many more people.

# HR 1 made changes to existing SNAP requirements and added new requirements to Medicaid

- HR 1 expanded who needs to “prove they are working or exempt” to qualify for SNAP benefits.
- HR 1 creates “prove you’re working/exempt” requirements for Medicaid for the first time.
- The SNAP and Medicaid requirements are different.
- Many people are in both Medicaid and SNAP.
- States will need to implement both sets of changes.
- The more states can align how they administer changes across both programs the easier (or harder) it will be for people keep food assistance and Medicaid.

last changed 10/03/2025

**EXHIBIT 1. COMPARING SNAP AND MEDICAID WORK REQUIREMENTS AS OUTLINED IN H.R. 1**

Category	SNAP	Medicaid
<b>Implementation Timeline</b>	States are awaiting guidance from USDA	December 31, 2026, or sooner through 1115 waivers
<b>Work Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General work requirements: 30 hours per week</li> <li>• ABAWD Work Requirement: 80 hours per month</li> </ul>	80 hours per month
<b>Population</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General work requirements: Ages 16-59</li> <li>• ABAWD Work Requirement: Ages 18-64</li> </ul>	Adults aged 19-64
<b>Exemptions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indian Health Service members</li> <li>• Caregivers (dependent child under the age of 14 or somebody with a disability)</li> <li>• Individuals already meeting work requirements under TANF or unemployment compensation</li> <li>• Individuals participating in a qualifying substance use disorder treatment program</li> <li>• Pregnant individuals</li> <li>• Medically certified as unable to work due to physical or mental limitation</li> <li>• Studying in school or a training program at least half time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indian Health Service members</li> <li>• Caregivers (dependent child under the age of 13 or someone with a disability)</li> <li>• Individuals already meeting work requirements under SNAP or TANF</li> <li>• Individuals participating in a qualifying substance use disorder (SUD) treatment program</li> <li>• Pregnant and postpartum individuals</li> <li>• Disabled veterans</li> <li>• Medically frail individuals (definition forthcoming from HHS)</li> <li>• Foster youth and former foster youth under the age of 26</li> <li>• Incarcerated or recently incarcerated individuals</li> <li>• Pregnant and postpartum individuals</li> <li>• Short-term hardship</li> </ul>

<https://www.chds.org/resource/aligning-work-requirements-across-snap-and-medicaid-to-support-public-benefit-continuity>

# SNAP changes impact states, people in food assistance programs starting Oct 1st

Prove you're working requirements went into effect the date the bill was enacted (July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025).

States were granted a 120 day "hold harmless" period where they would not be penalized for not having people comply with new "prove your working requirements.

USDA started 120 day "hold harmless" period July 4<sup>th</sup>. **It ends November 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Nov 1<sup>st</sup>,** county workers have a big increase in workload because they must serve many more people who need to prove they are working without any more workers or money to do the extra work.

# SNAP changes impact states, people in food assistance programs starting Oct 1st

As of October 1<sup>st</sup> HR 1 changes what is considered an error. More things will now be counted as errors than before.

If states have more than a 6% error rate, they are penalized and must pay a lot more state money to keep getting federal money for SNAP, starting Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2028.

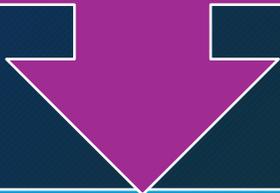
All the changes to SNAP from HR1 are retroactively covered.

That means everyone HR 1 says must “prove they are working/exempt” as of July 4<sup>th</sup> will be counted as errors, even though the state has no federal guidance or funding for the workers needed to verify people are meeting the work requirement.

The 2026 and 2027 error rates will be used to calculate whether and how much match states will have to pay to get federal SNAP money.

# SNAP changes impact states, people in food assistance programs starting Oct 1st

DHS estimates they need **\$16.1 million** more in state funding now to hire 56 new DHS staff and county quality control positions.



If counties do not get more staff and money to pay staff, it will:

increase the time it takes to apply and renew food share for everyone,

may mean workers have less time to help people (even if they are exempt from prove you're working requirements),

increase error rates, which matter because HR1 penalizes states that have error rates more than 6%.

# SNAP changes impact states, people in food assistance programs starting Oct 1st

Starting **January 1, 2026**  
the federal government  
will not provide as much  
money to states to run  
the SNAP program.

These administrative  
funds help pay for the  
county workers who are  
verifying people are  
eligible to get SNAP.

The federal funding to  
run SNAP is reduced two  
times during the current  
two-year state budget.

That means DHS says the  
state legislature must  
provide **\$32.4 million  
more** in state money to  
make up for the loss of  
federal funding.

# County officials say they're not prepared to handle Medicaid and SNAP changes

- Local officials charged with administering the country's social safety net said changes in HR 1 will mean there are not enough workers to check and verify compliance with new prove you're working requirements.
- This could mean some people eligible for SNAP will lose food assistance.
- Local officials from both Democrat- and Republican-leaning counties who are responsible for administering the programs in several states say they lack the staff, funding and resources to take on the administrative burdens of the changes.



<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/09/27/trump-snap-medicaid-county-cuts-00582624>

# County officials say they're not prepared to handle Medicaid and SNAP changes

- Lorie Graff, a county official in western Wisconsin, said her biggest worry about the policy changes is that they were crafted without local officials in mind, leading to an increased workload for a system that is already struggling to keep up.
- “When they make these new policies at the federal level, they don’t think about the fact that we are doing the work on the ground in counties that are seeing these people,” she said. “We need funding to be able to make these things happen.”



<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/09/27/trump-snap-medicaid-county-cuts-00582624>

County, Tribal Nation	# of Individuals in SNAP	% of County population in SNAP	County, Tribal Nation	# of Individuals in SNAP	% of County population in SNAP
Adams	3,459	16.48%	Douglas	5,082	11.42%
Ashland	2,447	15.54%	Dunn	4,204	9.11%
Barron	5,586	11.88%	Eau Claire	10,165	9.06%
Bayfield	1,414	8.72%	Florence	524	11.43%
Brown	27,019	9.71%	Fond du Lac	9,649	9.28%
Buffalo	1,028	7.74%	Forest	1,228	13.21%
Burnett	2,047	12.32%	Grant	4,700	9.07%
Calumet	2,608	4.60%	Green	2,921	7.78%
Chippewa	6,149	8.99%	Green Lake	1,905	9.99%
Clark	3,188	9.03%	Iowa	1,930	8.01%
Columbia	5,014	8.51%	Iron	774	12.65%
Crawford	1,920	11.82%	Jackson	2,483	11.61%
Dane	45,344	7.42%	Jefferson	6,887	7.93%
Dodge	7,705	8.64%	Juneau	4,138	15.18%
Door	2,015	6.47%	Kenosha	21,319	12.46%

County, Tribal Nation	# of Individuals in SNAP	% of County population in SNAP	County, Tribal Nation	# of Individuals in SNAP	% of County population in SNAP
Kewaunee	1,370	6.62%	Pepin	606	8.22%
La Crosse	10,137	8.14%	Pierce	2,103	4.90%
Lafayette	1,424	8.50%	Polk	4,167	9.09%
Langlade	3,129	16.12%	Portage	5,946	8.19%
Lincoln	3,083	10.77%	Price	1,825	13.07%
Manitowoc	7,526	9.29%	Racine	30,071	15.03%
Marathon	12,369	8.81%	Richland	2,273	13.21%
Marinette	5,475	13.07%	Rock	23,535	14.17%
Marquette	1,733	11.12%	Rusk	2,316	16.25%
Milwaukee	239,576	25.34%	St.Croix	4,723	4.72%
Monroe	5,071	10.83%	Sauk	6,982	10.30%
Oconto	3,556	9.04%	Sawyer	1,930	10.49%
Oneida	3,495	9.19%	Shawano	4,819	11.69%
Outagamie	13,465	6.84%	Sheboygan	12,398	10.39%
Ozaukee	3,256	3.46%	Taylor	1,939	9.60%

County, Tribal Nation	# of Individuals in SNAP	% of County population in SNAP	County, Tribal Nation	# of Individuals in SNAP	% of County population in SNAP
Trempealeau	2,533	8.17%	Menominee	2,109	49.40%
Vernon	2,565	8.17%	Red Cliff	326	
Vilas	1,711	7.33%	Stockbridge- Munsee	133	
Walworth	8,431	7.85%	Potawatomi	45	
Washburn	2,017	12.04%	Lac du Flambeau	1,289	
Washington	7,177	5.14%	Bad River	276	
Waukesha	16,381	3.93%	Sokaogon Tribe	182	
Waupaca	4,982	9.53%	Oneida Nation	1,144	
Waushara	2,842	11.56%	Lac Courte Oreilles	658	
Winnebago	17,250	9.91%			
Wood	9,939	13.44%			



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

September 23, 2025

State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

RE: Response to Reconsideration Request of the Non-Continuation of Grant PR/Award Number H326T230035

Dear Jolene Gruber,

We have reviewed your timely request for reconsideration submitted on September 11, 2025, regarding the non-continuation of grant PR/Award Number H326T230035 in the State Technical Assistance Projects to Improve Services for DeafBlind Children program. Upon the review and recommendation by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, I have concluded the review of your reconsideration request, and your request is denied.

The U.S. Department of Education (Department) has provided this administrative reconsideration process, consistent with law (34 C.F.R. § 75.253(g)), to permit a grantee to challenge this decision to not continue a grant. As part of this process, the Department informed applicants in their non-continuation letter that they could submit a reconsideration request, and the Department would review the submitted materials to determine if the request is accepted or denied.

Upon review of your submitted reconsideration materials and documentation from your grant, I have determined that your grant provides funding for programs that reflect the prior Administration's priorities and policy preferences and conflicts with those of the current Administration, in that the program: violates the letter or purpose of Federal civil rights law; conflicts with the Department's policy of prioritizing merit, fairness, and excellence in education; undermines the well-being of the students these programs are intended to help; or constitutes an inappropriate use of federal funds.

Specifically, in support of my conclusion, you state in your approved grant application that you will "Update recruitment process to include rules regarding screening panel participants (i.e., at least one subject matter expert (SME) from a different team, other than the hiring one, must participate on a panel and at least 2 participants who are members of an historically marginalized group)." In addition, "All applicant pools will be comprised of at least 40% of applicants from underrepresented and historically marginalized groups by the end of 2023 and have data showing improvement in the amount of deadline extensions." And, "contract/bidding process and training is updated by target date • 7% of expenditures will contract with women and/or minority owned businesses and 4% for disability veteran owned businesses by spring 2022." In addition, the information in your request for reconsideration was not sufficient to refute these findings.

## U.S. Dept. of Education reaffirms decision to cancel grant for deaf/blind students

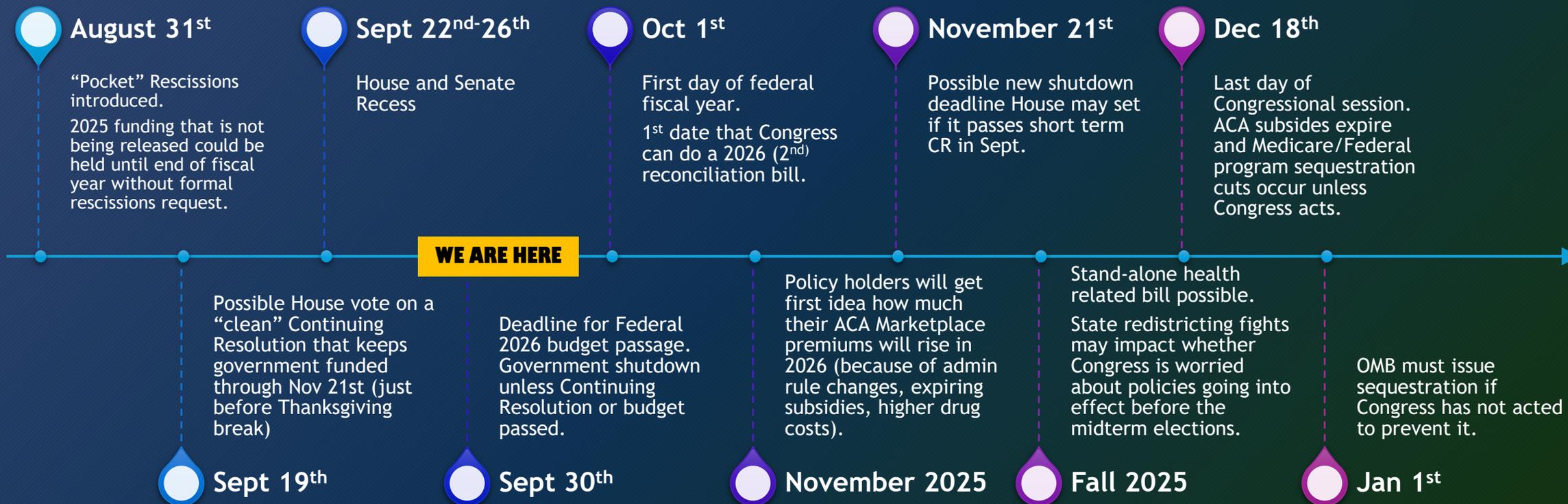
- Wisconsin DPI received a notice of discontinuation in early September.
- This was a five year a 500K grant to support deaf-blind students that was supposed to be funded through 2028.
- DPI asked U.S. Dept of Ed to reconsider their decision. U.S. Dept. of Ed will not send the money to Wisconsin.
- DPI asked U.S. Dept of Ed to reconsider its discontinuation of another \$10M grant (State Personnel Development Grant) supposed to be funded through 2028.
- DPI has not received a response to that request yet.

# Congress

2026 Budget  
bill, Pocket  
Rescissions

last changed 10/03/2025

# Congress's end of year task list



# Government funding runs out, government shuts down Oct 1st

Sept 30<sup>th</sup> the U.S. Senate held a vote on both the Republican Continuing Resolution (CR) that passed the U.S. House and the Democratic CR proposal. Neither had the required 60 votes to pass.

The government shutdown will continue until both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House agree on the same language.

The U.S. House will not come back into session until next week, which means the shutdown will continue unless the Senate passes the CR already passed by the House.

The U.S. Senate may schedule another vote this weekend on the House passed CR.

If a bi-partisan deal is negotiated, it can't pass the U.S. House until the U.S. House is back in session.

Trump administration has threatened to use the additional flexibilities it gains during a shutdown to permanently fire federal workers and remove funding from programs that do not fit administration priorities.

Some Senators have suggested states with Democratic leadership may bear a disproportionate share of federal shutdown decisions.

# Federal employees furloughed

- Critical services continue to operate.
- [Learn what has \(typically\) happened in past shutdowns.](#)
- The Postal Service will still deliver mail, and Social Security and Medicare will still send payments.
- Other federal functions have ceased; OMB Director has said permanent firings of federal workers could begin this week.
- Social Security: Retirement, survivor and disability payments will continue, but some services may be temporarily unavailable ([NYT article](#))
- U.S. Dept. of Education: Investigations into civil rights complaints will stop, and the department will not issue new federal grants. ([AP article](#))

last changed 10/03/2025

## Hundreds of thousands of workers have been furloughed

AGENCY	TOTAL EMPLOYEES	FURLOUGHED	SHARE
Environmental Protection Agency	15,166	13,432	89%
Education	2,447	2,117	87
 Commerce	42,984	34,711	81
 Labor	12,916	9,792	76
 Housing and Urban Development	6,105	4,359	71
 State	26,995	16,651	62
 Interior	58,619	30,996	53
 Agriculture	85,907	42,256	49
 Defense (civilian work force)	741,477	334,904	45
 Health and Human Services	79,717	32,460	41

# Question for Congress:

Congress passed a budget in March that the administration hasn't followed. Funds that were supposed to be spent never got to where Congress directed it to go, money that was already awarded for projects and programs are being taken away.

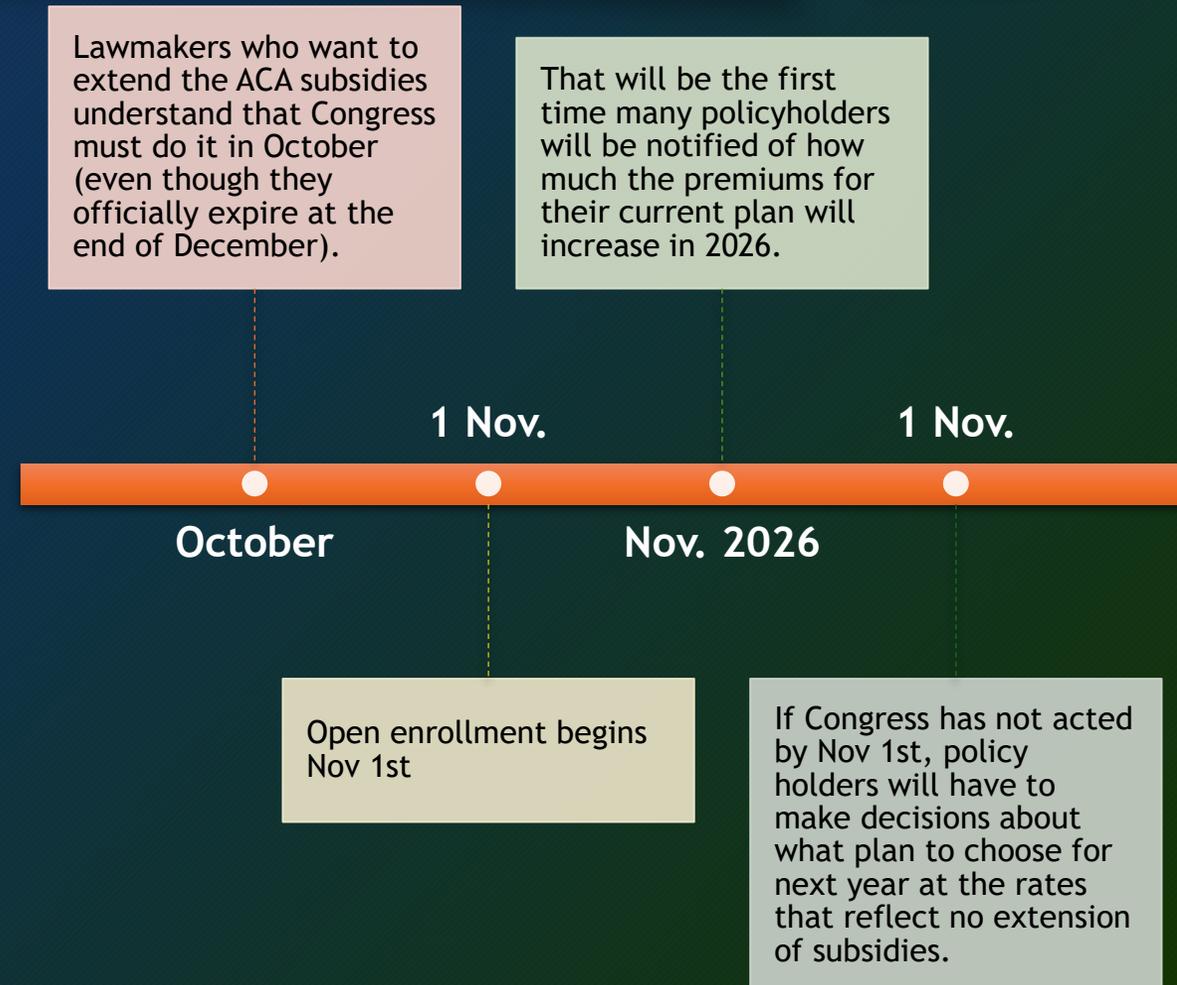
What is Congress going to do to make sure that the budget promises it makes to states/people in the form of federal dollars and programs will be kept by this administration?

## Question for Congress:

Wisconsin taxpayers pay federal taxes. That money comes back to us in federal programs. Why are you stopping our tax dollars from returning to WI?

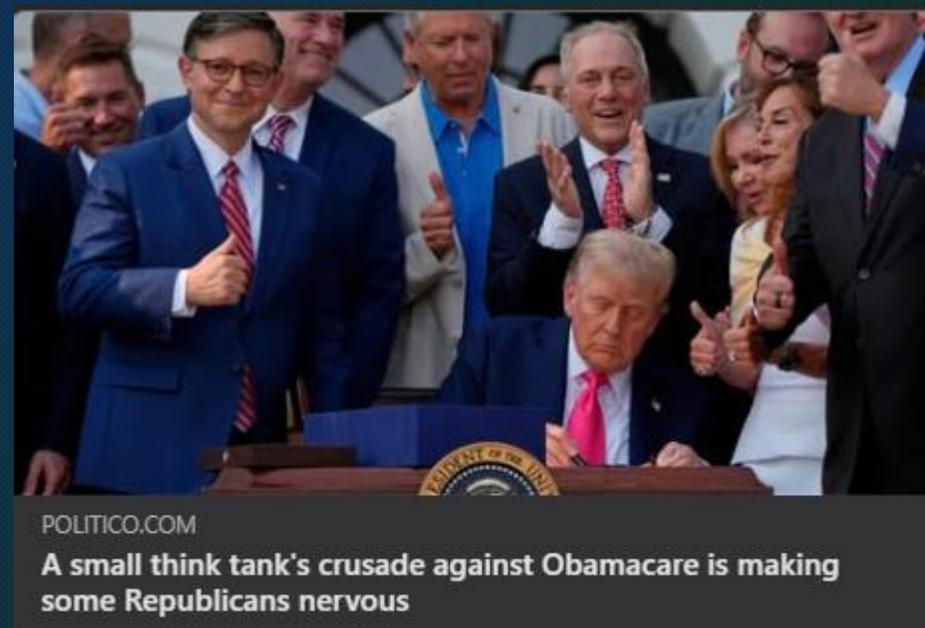
# Future of ACA Marketplace subsidies uncertain

- There is disagreement within the White House and Congress about whether extending the subsidies is a good idea.
- Some members of Congress do not want to extend the subsidies at all.
- Some members of Congress are worried voters will not re-elect them if the subsidies are not extended.
- A group of Senate Republicans is working on a proposal for later this year extend subsidies but also add conservative policy changes that could change who gets a tax credit and how much it would be worth.



# A small think tank is pressuring Republicans to let Obamacare subsidies expire

- Paragon Health Institute is pressuring lawmakers to let enhanced Affordable Care Act tax credits expire at the end of the year.
- Paragon argues the subsidies fund insurers, cost too much, and there is fraud to get tax credit money by enrolling people who never bill for care.
- Paragon is credited with many of the Medicaid cut ideas that were passed in HR 1.
- Conservative groups The Club for Growth and Americans for Prosperity are also against extending the subsidies.



<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/09/30/obamacare-aca-subsidies-extension-trump-00589336>

## Question for Congress:

Insurers are saying they won't be offering ACA plans next year NOW.

People will have to make plan choices in November for next year.

Are you going to extend the subsidies?

Will you act on a bill in October?

# Congressional Proposal Calls For Sending More Medicaid Funds To Institutions

- Disability advocates say a bill Congress introduced this summer would direct tens of billions of dollars toward institutionalization all while community-based services are likely to face cuts.
- The Legislation would repeal Medicaid's Institutions for Mental Diseases, or IMD, exclusion.
- The decades-old policy limits states from directing federal Medicaid funds to care for individuals ages 21 to 64 in mental health and substance use disorder facilities with more than 16 beds in many circumstances.



<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2025/09/25/congressional-proposal-calls-for-sending-more-medicaid-funds-to-institutions/31612/>

# Congressional Proposal Calls For Sending More Medicaid Funds To Institutions

- A 2023 Congressional Budget Office analysis estimated that eliminating the IMD exclusion would increase federal spending almost \$31 B, between 2024 and 2033 from \$7.7 billion to \$38.4 billion.
- A three-year demonstration project that let states use Medicaid to reimburse for IMD services found it didn't decrease ER visits, reduce people being held in ERs, or improve access to psychiatric hospital services.



<https://www.disabilitycoop.com/2025/09/25/congressional-proposal-calls-for-sending-more-medicaid-funds-to-institutions/31612/>

# Congressional Proposal Calls For Sending More Medicaid Funds To Institutions

- 60 disability groups [signed a letter](#) that said the bill “has the potential to upend decades of federal policy and legislative initiatives designed to help states support community services, undermining the rights of people with disabilities to receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate.”



<https://www.disabilitycoop.com/2025/09/25/congressional-proposal-calls-for-sending-more-medicaid-funds-to-institutions/31612/>

# Congressional Proposal Calls For Sending More Medicaid Funds To Institutions

- “While institutions for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities don’t count as IMDs, a significant number of people with IDD do end up in psychiatric institutions due to a lack of community services,”
- “At a time when states will be facing historic cuts to their Medicaid programs due to the budget reconciliation bill that Congress recently enacted, it seems particularly important to educate congressional offices about the impact that directing billions of federal dollars to institutional care would likely have on community services.”



DISABILITYSCOOP.COM

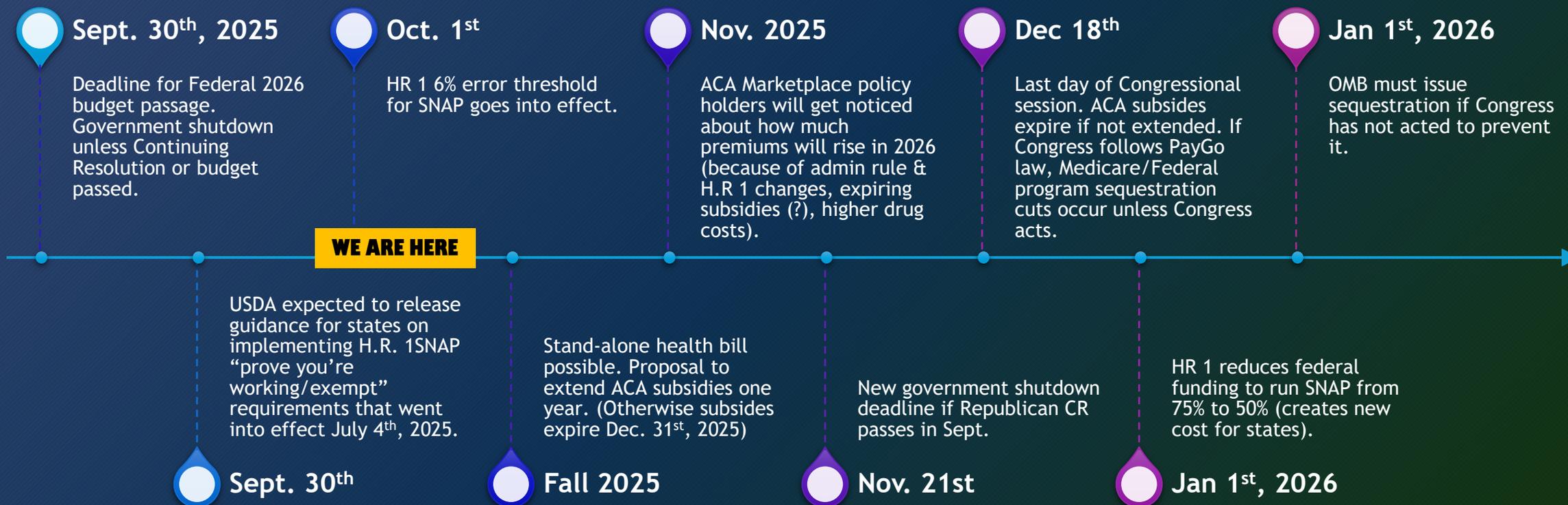
**Congressional Proposal Calls For Sending More Medicaid Funds To Institutions**

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2025/09/25/congressional-proposal-calls-for-sending-more-medicaid-funds-to-institutions/31612/>

## Question for Congress:

Letting states spend more Medicaid dollars on institutions is not a solution and creates more problems. What are you going to do to make sure people can live more independently and get the mental health services they need in the community?

# 2025 decision or HR 1 implementation points



# 2026 decision or HR 1 implementation points

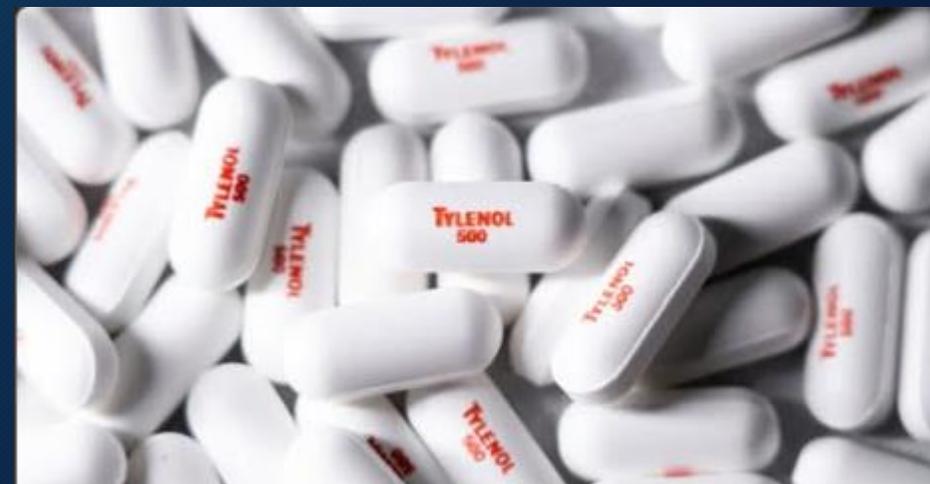


# Administration

Administrative  
rules, Federal  
Agency Actions

# In doctors' offices, Trump's comments on Tylenol and vaccines are changing parents' decisions

- Parents began to make different health choices and to question their prior ones hours after the press conference where the President said acetaminophen and vaccines cause autism
- Parents want to avoid doing things they perceive could make their child's life harder.
- Disability is often perceived by able-bodied as limiting, undesirable, and to be avoided.
- Many parents describe going through different phases when they have a child with a disability.
- The experience of parents who have raised children with disabilities successfully is helpful to people who are starting on a path they did not expect.



CNN.COM

In doctors' offices, the consequences of Trump's comments on Tylenol and vaccines are immediately clear | CNN

<https://www.cnn.com/2025/09/26/health/tylenol-trump-autism-consequences>

# NIH to spend \$50M on autism cause studies, experts say US should focus on treatments

- Last Monday the administration launched the “Autism Data Science Initiative (ADSI).”
- Under the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the initiative will award \$50 million to about a dozen projects looking at finding the causes of autism and improving outcomes for autistic individuals.
- Many researchers who work within the autism community say that scientists have been looking into the causes of autism for many decades and -- although further studies are not unwelcome -- they say funds may be better spent addressing treatments and interventions for autistic individuals.
- "It feels like we've done the work around the causal piece, and now we really need to be thinking about how to support autistic individuals."



<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/nih-spend-50m-autism-cause-studies-experts-us>

# RFK suggests Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund pay claims for autism

- The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 was created for two reasons: provide a way for people who experienced rare reactions to vaccines to file compensation claims and protect the vaccine supply.
- Vaccines are not profitable, and in the early 80's a flood of litigation had many companies considering stopping manufacturing of vaccines.
- Low supply would mean less access to vaccines, more unvaccinated people, and more potential for the spread of serious illnesses that could cause disability and death.



<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/vaccine-injury-compensation-program-autism-rfk-jr>

# RFK suggests Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund pay claims for autism

- Autism is not on the list of conditions that Vaccine Injury Compensation fund (VICIP) will compensate because it has already been litigated.
- In the late 1990s and early 2000s there were many claims that vaccines cause autism and courts considered thousands of cases;
- After years of hearings and expert testimony, the courts clearly ruled vaccines do not cause autism



<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/vaccine-injury-compensation-program-autism-rfk-jr>

# RFK suggests Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund pay claims for autism

- Secretary Kennedy wants to add autism and two serious brain conditions – encephalopathy and encephalitis – so that autism cases could qualify for the list of conditions covered by the VICP.
- That could mean a flood of claims that could threaten the financial stability of the entire program.
- If the fund collapses under the weight of autism claims, vaccine makers may question whether producing vaccines for the U.S. market is worth the risk, which would mean there would be a reduction in access to many vaccines and more people who are unvaccinated.
- HHS would need to draft a rule, open it to public comment and then defend the change in court to make these proposed changes.



<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/vaccine-injury-compensation-program-autism-rfk-jr>

# How Trump's Latest Tariffs May Affect Your Medicines

- The president said he would impose a 100% tariff on certain brand-name drugs.
- Generic drugs will not have a tariff. 90% of Americans' prescriptions are generics.
- Brand-name drugs made in the European Union could have a 15% tariff. [It is not clear when that will go into effect].
- Brand name drugs made in the United States will not have a tariff.
- Drug made in certain other countries could be subject to a 100% tariff.
- Companies may avoid tariffs for certain products if they tell the Trump administration they plan to move some of that production to a factory they're building in the United States.



<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/26/health/trump-drug-tariffs-prescription-costs.html>

(Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, it was announced the tariffs will be delayed)

# Why are disability advocates watching this?

Many people with disabilities are prescribed medications (brand name, formulary)

Prescription drugs are one of the largest spending line items in state Medicaid programs

Increases in drug prices can cause unanticipated costs in state Medicaid programs (and big state budget holes).

When states have more Medicaid costs than they budgeted for states must decide whether to spend more or cut costs.

# Millions Could Lose Housing Aid Under Trump Plan

- The U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has drafts of two proposed administrative rules
- The first rule outline plans to allow full-time work requirements for recipients of housing assistance, and two-year limits on living in federally supported housing
- 4 million people could lose federal housing assistance; many could become homeless.
- (Federal housing assistance programs support more than 8 million people)
- Most of the people receiving housing assistance are elderly, disabled or children.



<https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-housing-reforms-aid-hud-immigration-homelessness>

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- The second proposed administrative rule targets mixed-status households and would strip aid from families if one household member is in the country illegally.
- The requirement that residents and applicants prove their citizenship – and that housing providers verify it – could create \$100 million in new costs, HUD expects.
- HUD expects public housing units may be left vacant because of the rule.



<https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-housing-reforms-aid-hud-immigration-homelessness>

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- The rule could increase federal costs by \$370 M per year because people who leave the program are likely to have only part of the cost covered by the government and the households that replace them would be fully eligible for the government to pay a higher amount of rental assistance paid.
- HUD does not plan to increase funding to the local public housing authorities, so those authorities may have to offer fewer vouchers or leave units unoccupied.



<https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-housing-reforms-aid-hud-immigration-homelessness>

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- In May, Trump's budget proposal called for cutting funding for public housing, housing vouchers and other rental assistance by 43%.
- In March, HUD and the Department of Homeland Security announced a data-sharing agreement targeting so-called mixed-status families.
- Recently, HUD reportedly planned to require all local public housing authorities to identify such families to the federal agency.



<https://www.propublica.org/article/trump-housing-reforms-aid-hud-immigration-homelessness>

# US will not enforce Biden wheelchair passenger protection rule

- Sept 29<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Dept of Transportation said it will not enforce the current administrative rule that requires new consumer protections for disabled passengers using wheelchairs.
- U.S. DOT will also not enforce a requirement airlines notify passengers about their rights in writing when they are checking wheelchairs or scooters.
- USDOT is writing a new rule that will remove airline liability for mishandled wheelchairs.
  - Last year, USDOT said 5.5 million Americans used a wheelchair.
  - For every 100 wheelchairs or scooters transported on domestic flights at least one is damaged, delayed, or lost.



<https://www.reuters.com/world/usdot-will-not-enforce-biden-wheelchair-passenger-protection-rule-2025-09-29/>

# Continued coverage of impact of Reconciliation bill

Lots of  
articles to  
share.

# Millions of Americans are facing food stamp cuts as grocery costs continue to rise

- About 2.4 million people, or about 6% of enrollees, could lose access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), in an average month, because of the new law's changes, which include stricter work requirements, the Congressional Budget Office estimated last month.
- Millions more will see their monthly benefit amounts shrink because of other changes mandated by the law,
- About 42 million individuals in 22.3 million households received food stamps in 2023
- New work requirements for SNAP recipients are taking effect as the labor market stalls, raising the risk that more people could lose access to food stamps.



CBSNEWS.COM

**Millions of Americans are facing food stamp cuts as grocery costs continue to rise**

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/food-stamps-snap-cuts-obbbba-poverty-grocery-costs-inflation/>

## Feds have a say on who will have to prove they are working to keep Medicaid

- Under HR 1, States can apply for a waiver to allow a “short-term hardship exemption” to let certain individuals temporarily not have to prove they are working to keep Medicaid coverage.
- How many people could be exempt depends on how the Trump administration interprets the law, in addition to whether their states’ officials apply.
- Note: some hardship exemptions rely on federal approvals (disaster declaration, permission from Secretary) or documentation of travel and/or medical care received.

last changed 10/03/2025

### Optional Hardship Exceptions

State option to allow short-term hardship exceptions, for an individual who...

- was in an inpatient hospital, nursing facility, intermediate care facility, or inpatient psychiatric hospital
- resided in a county with a federally-declared emergency or disaster
- resided in a county with a high unemployment rate (above 8% or 1.5x the national unemployment rate), subject to a request from the state to the Secretary
- traveled outside of the individual’s community for an extended period for medical care for themselves or for their dependent

<https://www.kff.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/10738-02-Figure-2.png>

**KFF**

# Where Jobs Are Scarce, Over 1 Million People Could Dodge Trump's Medicaid Work Rules

- The unemployment rate exemption is one of several short-term hardship carve-outs from the Medicaid work requirement, and it's different because it exempts people living in entire counties.
- How the federal government decides to calculate the unemployment rate (8.5% for any month in a 12-month period or 8.5% for the entire 12-month period) will change the number of people who could potentially be exempt.
- The Trump administration is more likely to adopt a stricter threshold based on average unemployment over a 12-month period (same as how SNAP calculates).



<https://kffhealthnews.org/news/article/medicaid-work-requirement-exemption-unemployment-jobs-waiver-counties>

# Where Jobs Are Scarce, Over 1 Million People Could Dodge Trump's Medicaid Work Rules

- If Trump officials use the unemployment rate for any month over a 12-month period, about 4.6 million Medicaid enrollees in 386 counties could qualify for an exemption (about 25% of Medicaid enrollees subject to the work requirements)
- If they use the average unemployment rate over a 12-month period, only about 1.4 million Medicaid enrollees living in 158 counties could be exempted (about 7% of Medicaid enrollees subject to the work requirements)
- To qualify for the Medicaid exemption, states must apply to the federal government on behalf of individuals in eligible counties.
- If a county earned an exemption; the federal government would determine how long it applies.



<https://kffhealthnews.org/news/article/medicaid-work-requirement-exemption-unemployment-jobs-waiver-counties>

# Fragile N.C. Residents Lose Medicaid Support for Food and Housing

- States can apply for Medicaid waivers that “test” how spending of Medicaid dollars in non-traditional ways can improve health outcomes.
- Five years ago, North Carolina began using Medicaid to providing nutritious food, safe housing and transportation for doctors’ visits to test whether it would help avoid costly hospital stays.
- The program was a success, enjoyed bipartisan support, and saved \$1,000 annually for each of the 13,000 Medicaid recipients enrolled.
- State lawmakers are shutting down funding for the program. It is an early casualty of the \$1 Trillion in Medicaid cuts Congress passed in HR 1.



<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/29/health/north-carolina-medicaid-food-housing.html>

# How California families are already bracing for looming Medicaid cuts

- One family in Orange County is scrambling to figure out how to care for a child with cerebral palsy should his benefits go away.
- Physical and speech therapy and other services are paid for through Medicaid. His wheelchair is funded by the government. An assistant paid for with taxpayer dollars makes sure he's safe on the bus ride to and from school.
- Each month, he receives a SSI \$957 disability check that helps to cover his and his family's living expenses.
- Her compensation for his in-home care comes from taxpayer dollars too.
- Given the potential for further cuts to programs that pay for home-based healthcare and assistants for people with disabilities, Cassandra wonders what will happen to her own family if she can no longer work as Elijah's caregiver.



LATIMES.COM

**How California families are already bracing for looming Medicaid cuts**

<https://www.latimes.com/science/story/2025-09-29/looming-medicaid-california-impacts>

# Rising costs strain Medicaid in CT - before federal cuts are counted

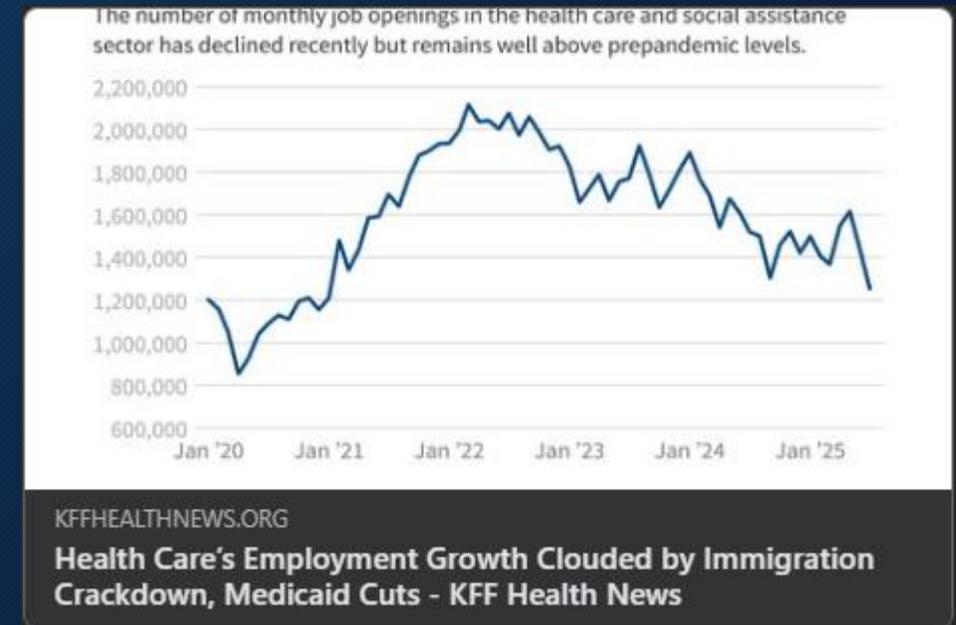
- Connecticut's Medicaid budget is increasing, drug prices are going up and there are more people in Medicaid who are using care.
- Connecticut hasn't raised reimbursement rates since 2007. Medicaid patients already have trouble finding physicians who will treat them.
- Now as Medicaid costs continue to go up, state lawmakers must decide whether to invest more in the current Medicaid program knowing that federal Medicaid cuts cutbacks will eliminate hundreds of millions of dollars annually for Medicaid.
- It is unclear whether lawmakers to use state resources to temper federal cuts.



<https://ctmirror.org/2025/09/30/ct-medicaid-cost-overruns>

# Health Care's Employment Growth Clouded by Immigration Crackdown, Medicaid Cuts

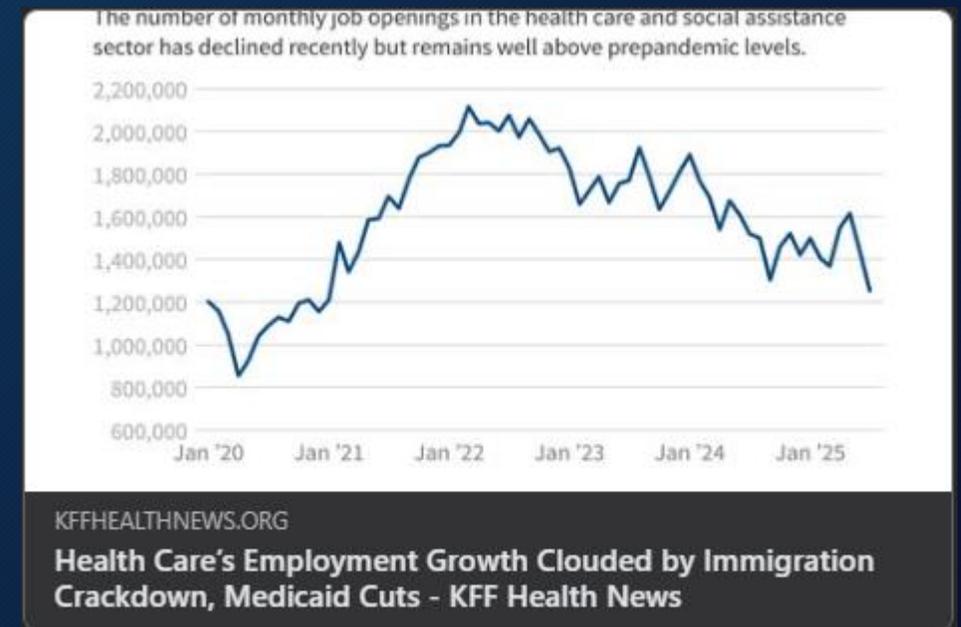
- Medicaid reductions are projected to cause millions of people to become uninsured.
- Hospitals, nursing homes, and community health centers will have to absorb more of the cost of treating uninsured people by reducing services and employees, or else close altogether.
- Health care job growth has been most pronounced in the home health sector, rising by nearly 300,000 jobs to 1.82 million workers from August 2019 to August 2025.



<https://kffhealthnews.org/news/article/health-care-employment-growth-immigration-crackdown-medicaid-cuts>

# Health Care's Employment Growth Clouded by Immigration Crackdown, Medicaid Cuts

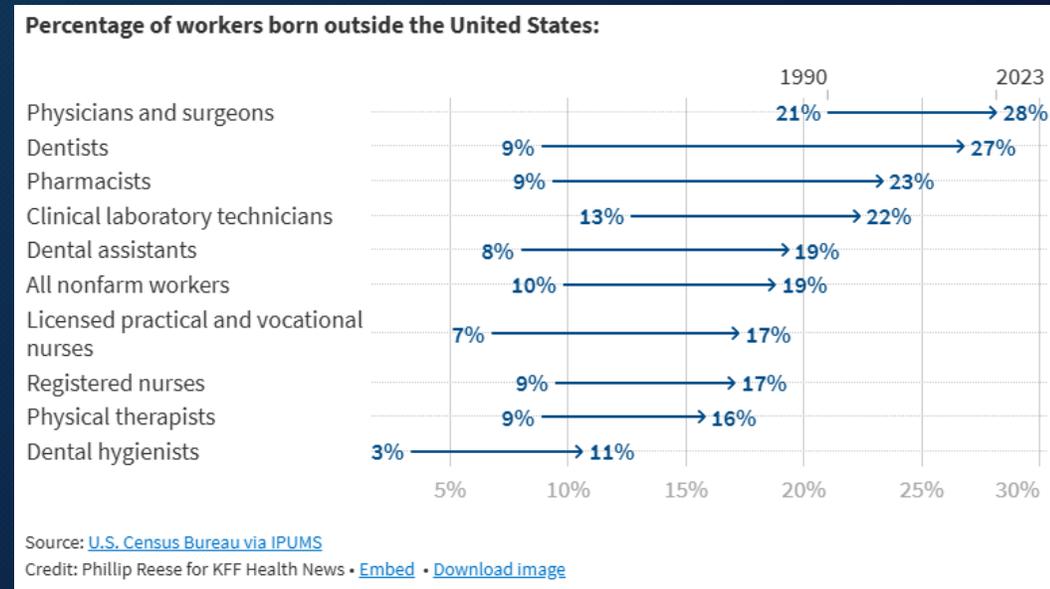
- The health care sector depends on foreign-born workers.
- The \$1 Trillion in Medicaid cuts in HR 1 is projected to trigger the loss of 1.2 million jobs nationwide, according to the Commonwealth Fund.
- It's not clear when — or if — immigration actions and Medicaid cuts will affect hiring in the health care sector, but there are signs of potential softening.



<https://kffhealthnews.org/news/article/health-care-employment-growth-immigration-crackdown-medicaid-cuts>

# Health Care's Employment Growth Clouded by Immigration Crackdown, Medicaid Cuts

- If immigration crackdowns by the Trump administration continue, it could get tough for health care organizations to find enough people to hire.
- About 18% of Americans employed in health care were born abroad, according to 2023 Census Bureau data.
- About 5% of health care workers were not citizens, including about 60,000 doctors and surgeons, 117,000 registered nurses, and 155,000 home health or personal care aides, census data shows. Many of those workers are here legally.



<https://kffhealthnews.org/news/article/health-care-employment-growth-immigration-crackdown-medicaid-cuts>