

# More Hopeful Futures or Children as Collateral Damage?: SNAP's Far-reaching Benefits for Children

June 10, 2025



# Panelists



Salaam Bhatti, Esq.  
SNAP Director  
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)



Alexis Bylander  
Interim Director of Child Nutrition Programs and Policy  
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)



Rocio Perez  
Policy Analyst  
UnidosUS



Daniela Spoto, MPH  
Director of Food Equity  
Hawai'i Appleseed



Callan Wells, M.S., IMH-E®  
Senior Health Policy Manager  
GEEARS: Georgia Early Education  
Alliance for Ready Students

# Moderator



Ashanti T. Lewis  
Director of Federal Government Relations  
**FoodCorps**

# Setting the Stage



Rocio Perez  
**Policy Analyst**  
**UnidosUS**

# Panel Discussion 1



Salaam Bhatti, Esq.  
SNAP Director  
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)



Alexis Bylander  
Interim Director of Child Nutrition Programs and Policy  
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)

# **Children's Stake in the Budget Reconciliation Debate: Medicaid and SNAP**

**GLR Learning Tuesday Webinar**

**Rocio Perez, Health Policy Analyst, UnidosUS**

**June 10, 2024**

---

# Overview

**Budget Reconciliation's proposed changes to Medicaid and SNAP**

**Our findings about children's stake in these issues**

**Implications**

# The House Budget Reconciliation Bill

- Proposed cuts by far the largest in American history
  - \$864 billion in Medicaid cuts
  - \$320 billion in cuts to support for ACA Marketplace coverage
  - \$319 billion in SNAP cuts, eliminating almost 30% of all federal support for the next 10 years
- **According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO)**
  - 16 million additional uninsured
  - More than 7 million people lose SNAP

# Many cuts will affect children

Enormous shift of  
SNAP costs to states

Repealing Biden-Harris rules eliminating paperwork  
and streamlining enrollment and renewal

Limits on states' revenue  
sources for Medicaid

Cuts to immigrant  
eligibility

Cutting parents' coverage  
reduces children's enrollment

Eliminating SNAP benefits for a parent means  
everyone in the family has less food to eat

---

# Overview

**Budget Reconciliation's proposed changes  
to Medicaid and SNAP**

**Our findings about  
children's stake in these  
issues**

**Implications**

# Children under attack:

How congressional assaults  
on health and food  
programs are endangering  
the youngest Americans



AFL-CIO  
AMERICA'S UNIONS

UNIDOS US

# Children benefit from Medicaid and SNAP

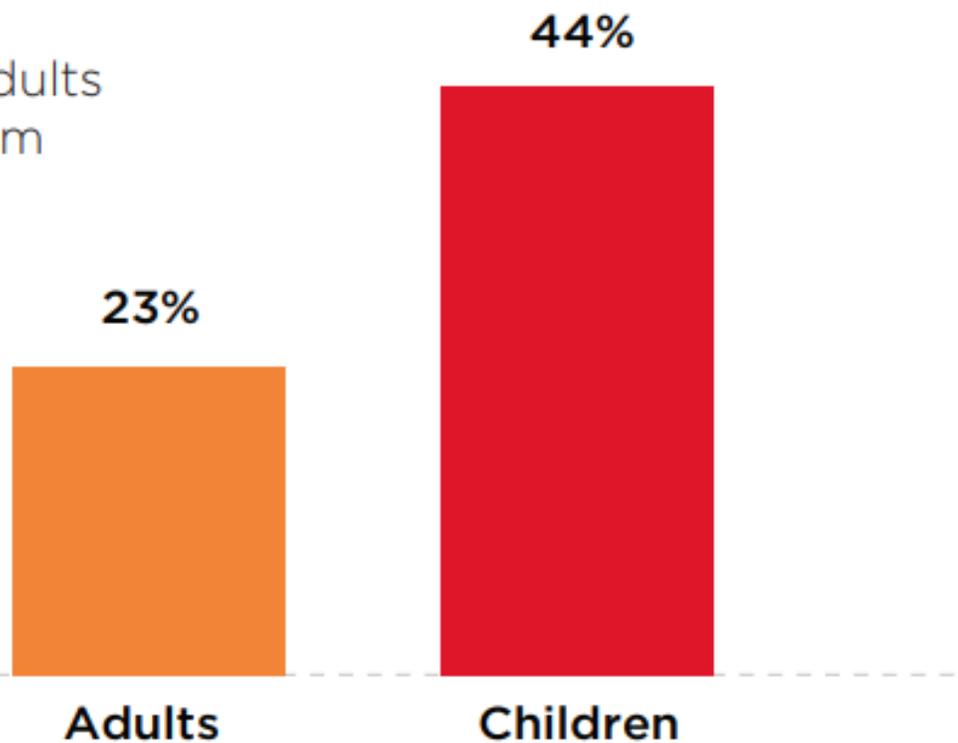
34 million children rely on Medicaid for health care, SNAP for food, or both

Our findings were based on American Community Survey data for 2023

Survey data under-report participation in these programs. The true numbers are almost certainly higher.

## Figure 1. Proposed Medicaid and SNAP cuts place children in particular danger

Percentage of children and adults under age 65 who benefit from SNAP or Medicaid: 2023

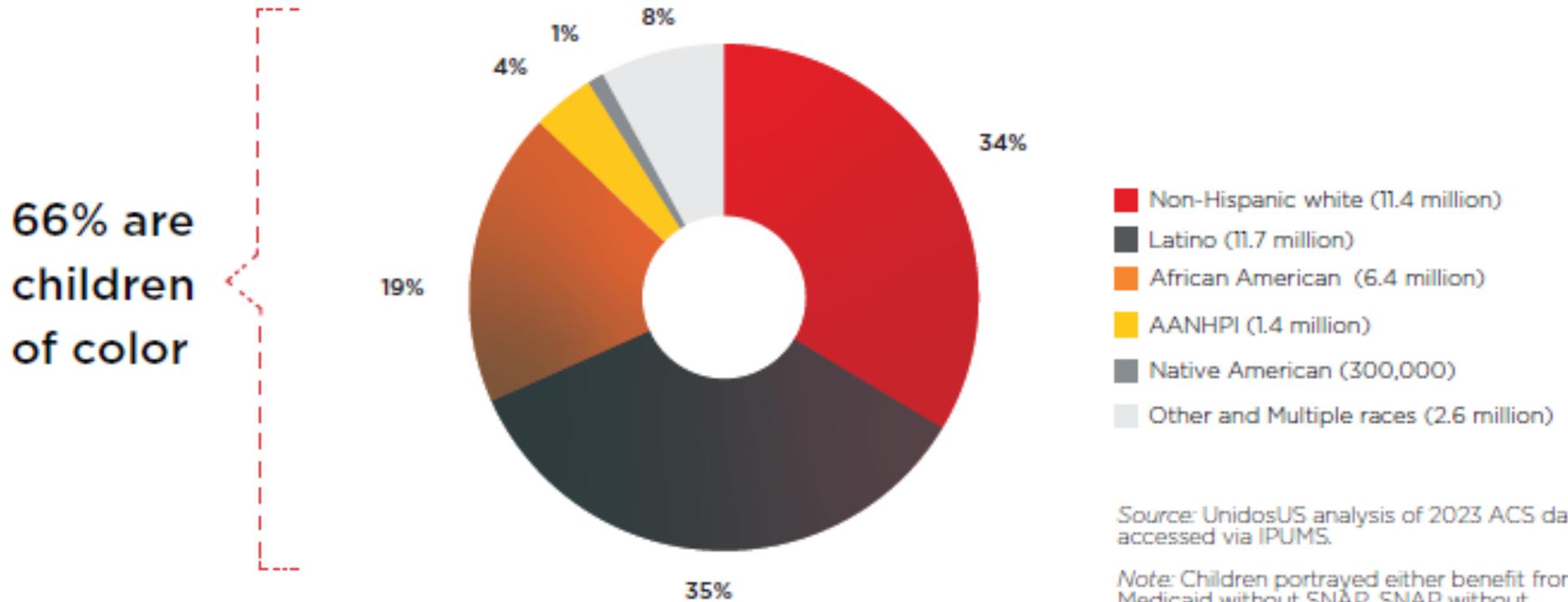


*Source:* UnidosUS analysis of 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) data, accessed via IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota, [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org) (IPUMS).

*Note:* Children portrayed either benefit from Medicaid without SNAP, SNAP without Medicaid, or both Medicaid and SNAP.

**Figure 2. Children of all races and ethnicities rely on Medicaid or SNAP, but two-thirds of children benefiting from these programs come from communities of color**

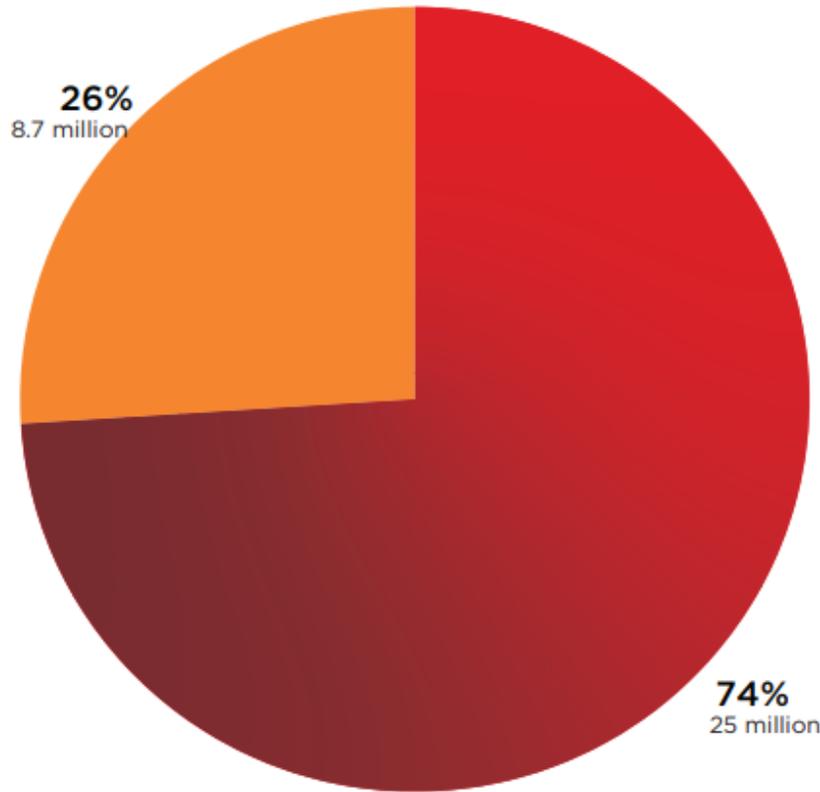
Children benefiting from Medicaid or SNAP, by race and ethnicity: 2023



Source: UnidosUS analysis of 2023 ACS data, accessed via IPUMS.

Note: Children portrayed either benefit from Medicaid without SNAP, SNAP without Medicaid, or both Medicaid and SNAP. Latino children include children of all races. All other racial and ethnic categories are limited to non-Hispanics. AANHPI = Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander.

**Figure 4. Most children who benefit from Medicaid or SNAP have working parents who never received a college degree**



Distribution of children benefiting from Medicaid or SNAP by parental work status and education level: 2023

- Children of working parents without a college degree
- Children of other parents

Source: UnidosUS analysis of 2023 ACS data, accessed via IPUMS.

Note: Children portrayed either benefit from Medicaid without SNAP, SNAP without Medicaid, or both Medicaid and SNAP. Working parents are in the labor force. As noted earlier, "college degree" references a four-year college degree.

# Children from red and blue states alike are in grave danger

Table 1. States where more than a million children benefit from Medicaid or SNAP: 2023

| Rank | State          | Children who benefit from Medicaid or SNAP |
|------|----------------|--|
| 1    | California     | 4,339,000                                  |
| 2    | Texas          | 3,371,000                                  |
| 3    | Florida        | 2,104,000                                  |
| 4    | New York       | 2,094,000                                  |
| 5    | Georgia        | 1,259,000                                  |
| 6    | Pennsylvania   | 1,258,000                                  |
| 7    | Illinois       | 1,176,000                                  |
| 8    | North Carolina | 1,134,000                                  |
| 9    | Ohio           | 1,119,000                                  |

Source: UnidosUS analysis of 2023 ACS data, accessed via IPUMS.

## Children from red and blue states alike are in grave danger

**Table 2. States where 50% or more of all children benefit from Medicaid or SNAP: 2023**

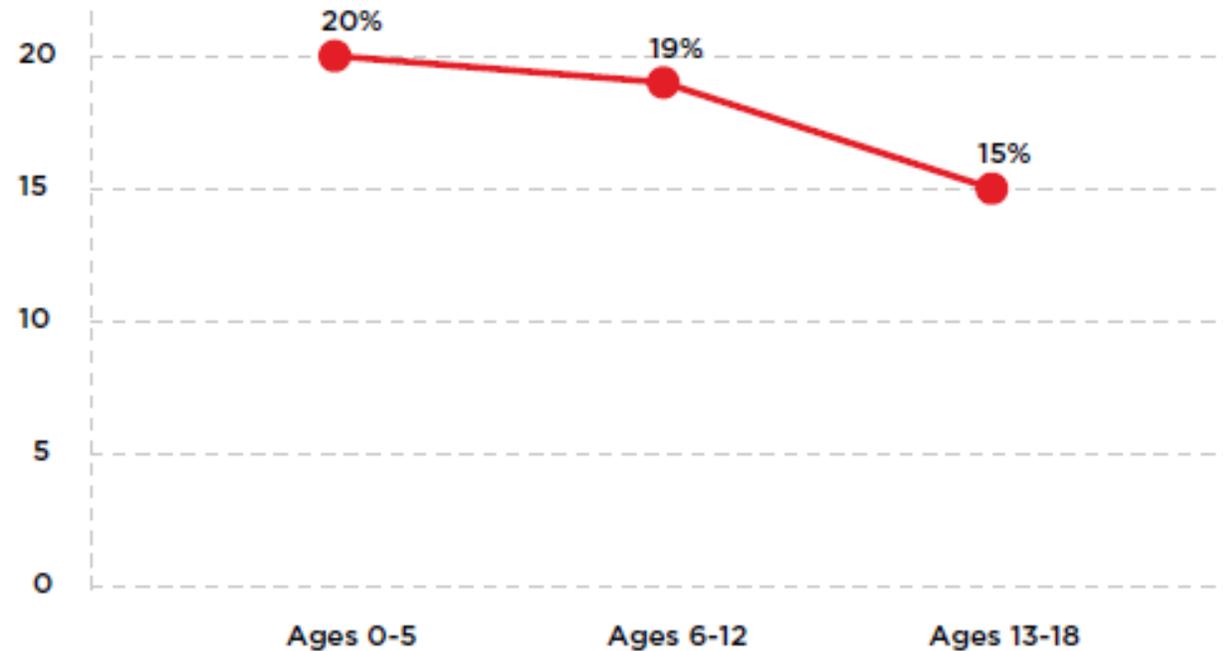
| Rank | State         | Percentage of all children who benefit from Medicaid or SNAP |
|------|---------------|--|
| 1    | New Mexico    | 65%  |
| 2    | Louisiana     | 59%  |
| 3    | Mississippi   | 52%  |
| 4    | Oklahoma      | 52%  |
| 5    | Alabama       | 50%  |
| 6    | Kentucky      | 50%  |
| 7    | West Virginia | 50%  |
| 8    | New York      | 50%  |
| 9    | Arkansas      | 50%  |

Source: UnidosUS analysis of 2023 ACS data, accessed via IPUMS. Latino children are Hispanic and may be of any race

# 14 million children are in double jeopardy, simultaneously relying on Medicaid for health care and SNAP for food

Figure 8. The youngest children are most likely to rely simultaneously on Medicaid for health care and SNAP for food

Percentage of children who benefit from both Medicaid and SNAP, by age: 2023



Source: UnidosUS analysis of 2023 ACS data, accessed via IPUMS.

---

# Overview

**Budget Reconciliation's proposed  
changes to Medicaid and SNAP**

**Our findings about children's stake in  
these issues**

**Implications**

**This bill would put millions of children across red and blue states in danger particularly very young children, children of color, and children in working class families.**

**What do you mean?**  
**What, do you meme?**



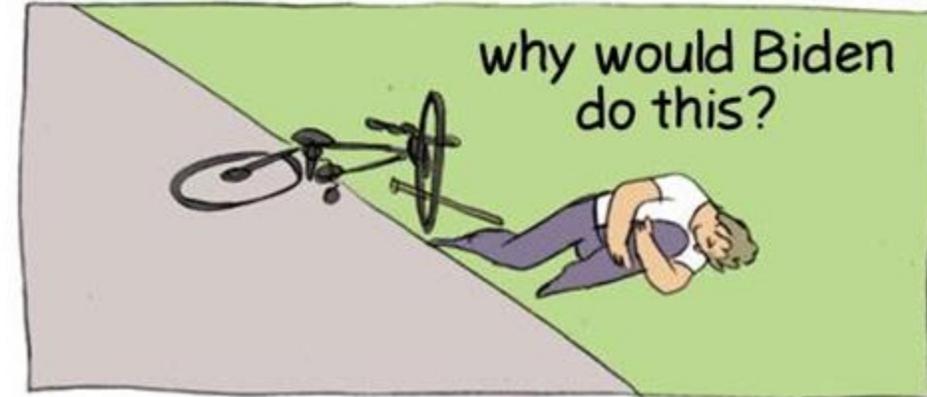
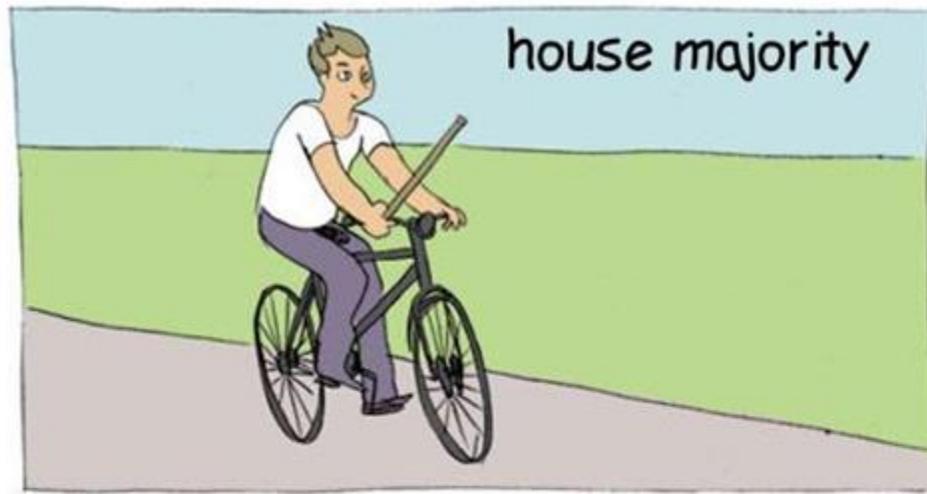
# Reconciliation



# Topline

---

- The deepest cut in SNAP's history – approximately \$300 billion
- Radically restructure the program, leading to likely additional cuts
- Rescind the promise that SNAP helps all in need of food assistance, regardless of where they live
- Take food assistance away from households with kids, seniors, people with disabilities, and others



# Unfunded Mandate – Benefits

---

Federal benefit cut of:

- 5 percent to all states;
  - In 2024, that would have been \$4.7 billion nationwide
- 15 percent to states with payment error rates between 6 and 8 percent;
- 20 percent to states with payment error rates over 8 to 10 percent;
- 25 percent to states with payment error rates over 10 percent

# Unfunded Mandate – Benefits

---

- Hypothetical
  - Virginia had a 9.86% error rate in 2023.
  - This would place Virginia in the 20% cut category.
  - In FY 2024, Virginians received \$1,765,640,540 in SNAP benefits
    - Virginia would have needed to budget \$353,128,108 for SNAP benefits

# Unfunded Mandate - Admin

---

- Federal/State Costs are equal – 50/50
- Proposal: Federal 25 / State 75
- FY2023 state admin costs:
  - \$174M Virginia
  - \$175M Federal
- This adjustment would have cost Virginia \$87M in addition to \$174M.

# The Shockwave

---

- Impact on Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility
- Impact on school meals





**waste, fraud,  
and abuse**

Let's see who this really is



**eliminate the  
programs**

# Other Deep Cuts

---

- Work-Related
  - Time Limits for older adults and single parents
  - Discretionary Exemptions from 8% to 1%
  - “availability of jobs” in favor of 10% unemployment only
- Thrifty Food Plan





**290 billion cut**

**let's go to the senate**



# Impact of SNAP Cuts on School Meals

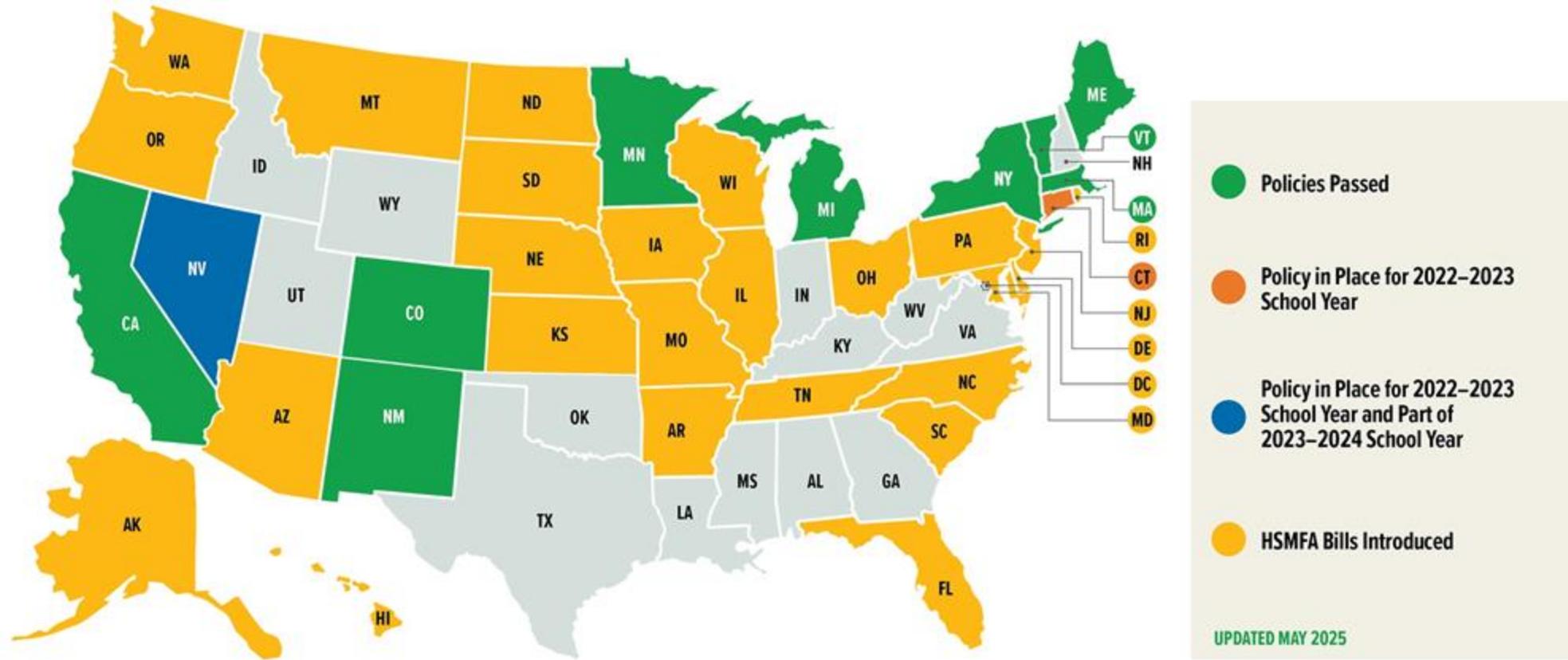
# We have made so much progress!

- Children get their healthiest meals at school
- School meals are on track to get even healthier with limits on sugar and reductions in sodium going into effect in the years ahead
- **School breakfast and lunch are critical to ensuring children are food secure**

13.8 million children live in food insecure households  
60% of schools currently able to offer free meals to all students



# Nine States Have Healthy School Meals for All



# SNAP Cuts Create Ripple Effects that Hurt School Meals

---

- Children in SNAP households are directly certified for free school meals
- Cuts to SNAP that decrease the number of households receiving benefits will decrease direct certification rates



# More Paperwork and Processes for Families

---

- Students in SNAP households will lose their direct certification for free school meals and automatic issuance for Summer EBT
- Families will need to individually apply for these programs
- Students will fall through the cracks of the application process and lose out on access to key nutrition



## SOURCES AND EXAMPLES OF INCOME

For additional information on income, please refer to the instructions that accompany the form.

| Sources of Income   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Earnings from Work</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salary, wages, cash bonuses, tips, commissions</li> <li>• Net income from self-employment (farm or business)</li> </ul> <p><b>If you are in the U.S. Military:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA, or privatized housing allowances)</li> <li>• Allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing</li> </ul> | <b>Public Assistance/Alimony/Child Support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unemployment benefits</li> <li>• Workers' compensation</li> <li>• Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</li> <li>• Cash assistance from State or local government</li> <li>• Alimony payments</li> <li>• Child support payments</li> <li>• Veterans benefits</li> <li>• Strike benefits</li> </ul> | <b>Pensions/Retirement/All other sources of income</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Security/Disability (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits)</li> <li>• Private Pensions or disability benefits</li> <li>• Income from trusts or estates</li> <li>• Annuities</li> <li>• Investment income</li> <li>• Earned interest</li> <li>• Rental income</li> <li>• Regular cash payments from outside household</li> </ul> |

### Challenges include:

- Literacy + language barriers
- Fear of being identified as low-income, needing food assistance or completing the form incorrectly

# Increased Administrative Burden for Schools

---

- Less direct certification means schools need to collect, process, and verify more school meal applications
- Decreasing direct certification rates may mean fewer schools are able to offer free school meals to all students through CEP and the cost to states could increase for Healthy School Meals for All policies



# Childhood Hunger Increases

---

- The result is more children going hungry at school
- Research shows that children experiencing hunger have a harder time succeeding in class and are more likely to have behavioral problems
- We need all students at school well-fed and ready to learn



# Summary

---

- School meals play a critical role in supporting student nutrition, health and learning
- Cuts to SNAP have ripple effects that harm the School Meals Programs, hurting students and schools
- Urge Congress to oppose cuts to SNAP



# Panel Discussion 2



**Daniela Spoto**  
**Director of Food Equity**  
**Hawai'i Appleseed**



**Callan Wells, M.S., IMH-E®**  
**Senior Health Policy Manager**  
**GEEARS: Georgia Early Education**  
**Alliance for Ready Students**

# Questions & Discussion

# Upcoming GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinars

## FUNDER TO FUNDER

Still Ready to Learn: Philanthropic Support for High-Quality Children's Media  
Tuesday, June 17, 12:30–2:00 p.m. ET/9:30 –11:00 a.m. PT

## PARTNER SESSION

Material Hardship Matters, Parent Voices from the RAPID Survey  
Tuesday, June 17, 3–4:30 p.m. ET/12–1:30 p.m. PT

## PEER EXCHANGE

What Parents Want: Innovative Ways to Improve Communication and Build Trust in Schools  
Tuesday, June 24, 12:30–2:00 p.m. ET/9:30 –11:00 a.m. PT

## LEARNING LOSS RECOVERY CHALLENGE

AI Basics: From Definitions to Deployment  
Tuesday, June 24, 3–4:30 p.m. ET/12–1:30 p.m. PT

