

Emergency SNAP Cuts Meeting

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17TH, 2025

Presented by Hannah Vlach from Restoring Dignity & Eric Savaiano from Nebraska Appleseed

THE RECONCILIATION BILL

- **President Trump** and **Congress** passed the **Reconciliation Bill** (One Big Bill or HR1) which includes **significant cuts to SNAP**.
 - This legislation specifically focuses on **cutting food benefits** to anyone who doesn't have a green card:
 - Refugees
 - People approved for asylum
 - SIVs
 - Afghan Parolees
 - Other people living in the U.S. lawfully, including certain immigrants who are victims of domestic violence (as well as their children and/or parents) and certain survivors of labor or sex trafficking)
 - It also includes **larger SNAP changes** which will impact every state, including Nebraska



WHAT WE KNOW

- **Monday, October 20th, 2025**
 - Anyone **without a green card** (*refugees, asylees, SIVs**, *Afghan Parolees*) will **no longer be eligible for SNAP benefits**
 - People without a documented immigration status have **never been eligible for SNAP**, and many people with lawful immigration statuses are already ineligible for SNAP due to program restrictions enacted in 1996.
 - These new cuts **specifically target individuals** who are legally in the United States and/or who the U.S. brought here.

**SIV = Special Immigrant Visa, a U.S. immigration program for allies who worked for or on behalf of the U.S. government and face threats in their home country, primarily for Iraqis and Afghans*

dhhs.ne.gov/pages/snap.aspx

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- Households receiving a qualifying Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) payment must contain an elderly or disabled member to have the SUA automatically applied to their case.

Alien Eligibility

- SNAP eligibility will be limited to those who reside in the United States and are:
 - A citizen;
 - Lawfully admitted for permanent residence with no intention of abandoning their foreign country;
 - Cuban and Haitian entrants; or
 - Allowed to live and work in the United States under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA).
- Eligibility for refugees, those granted asylum, and any others not explicitly included in the above list is removed.

These changes will be implemented with initial and recertification applications starting on October 20, 2025. If any of the above changes affect your household, please report this when you submit your application.

Note: As additional guidance is received from federal partners related to the above changes, updates will be made to this website. Please check back for additional information.

Note from DHHS website

GREEN CARD SITUATION EXPLAINED



- When a refugee is brought to the United States, they have to **wait one year before applying** for their green card. The waiting period after application is submitted is 1 to 2 years (possibly longer), per what local caseworkers are seeing.
- This is why anyone who was brought to the United States as a refugee in the **past 3 years** is likely impacted

WHAT WE KNOW

SNAP Recertification



- If a family is up for recertification starting on October 20th, they **will not be able to recertify** and will **lose** their SNAP benefits
- Families who have recertified will keep SNAP benefits **until their full 6 months is over** (ie. if recertified in September, benefits will stay till March)
- We will see the **full effect** of these food cuts over the next **six months**
- Each month from now through April 2026, more families will be unable to recertify

WHAT WE KNOW

If anyone in the household is a **U.S. citizen** or **green card** holder, that person can **still apply for SNAP**.

But under the new law:

When the state calculates benefits, it must count the income of everyone in the household, *even those who aren't eligible for SNAP*.

Example:

- If a baby is a U.S. citizen but the rest of the family doesn't have green cards, **the total household income will be divided by the number of people in the home**. For example, if there are 6 people, income is divided by 6.
- The family then applies for SNAP for one person (the baby). And DHHS considers $\frac{1}{6}$ of the income to determine eligibility for the baby.
- As a result, **many mixed-status families will not qualify** or will receive very reduced benefits.

SEC. 10108. ALIEN SNAP ELIGIBILITY.

Section 6(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(f)) is amended to read as follows:

“(f) No individual who is a member of a household otherwise eligible to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program under this section shall be eligible to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program as a member of that or any other household unless he or she is—

“(1) a resident of the United States; and

“(2) either—

“(A) a citizen or national of the United States;

“(B) an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence as an immigrant as defined by sections 101(a)(15) and 101(a)(20) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, excluding, among others, alien visitors, tourists, diplomats, and students who enter the United States temporarily with no intention of abandoning their residence in a foreign country;

“(C) an alien who has been granted the status of Cuban and Haitian entrant, as defined in section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 (Public Law 96–422); or

“(D) an individual who lawfully resides in the United States in accordance with a Compact of Free Association referred to in section 402(b)(2)(G) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

The income (less, at State option, a pro rata share) and financial resources of the individual rendered ineligible to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program under this subsection shall be considered in determining the eligibility and the value of the allotment of the household of which such individual is a member.”

From HR1 Bill

WHAT WE KNOW

New rule - family benefit is substantially reduced

Previous level of qualification and support

Household Size	Maximum Net Monthly Income (100% of Federal Poverty Level)	Maximum Gross Monthly Income (130% of Federal Poverty Level)	Maximum Gross Monthly Income for an Elderly, Disabled, Separate Household and ERP Households (165% of Federal Poverty Level)	Maximum Allotment
1	\$1,305	\$1,696	\$2,152	\$298
2	1,763	2,292	2,909	546
3	2,221	2,888	3,665	785
4	2,680	3,483	4,421	994
5	3,138	4,079	5,177	1,183
6	3,596	4,675	5,934	1,421
7	4,055	5,271	6,690	1,571
8	4,513	5,867	7,446	1,789
9	4,972	6,463	8,203	2,007
10	5,431	7,059	8,960	2,225
Each Additional Member	+459	+596	+757	+218

2025 Income Chart on [DHHS Website](#)

Example: A baby who is a U.S. Citizen in a family of six, with the father working full-time at a meat packing plant and the mother working part-time doing cleaning work, while also watching the infant and three children.

Father: \$19.50/hour/monthly gross income: \$3,380.00

Mother: \$16/hour/monthly gross income: \$1,386.67

Total monthly household of 6 gross income: \$4,766

Total yearly gross income: \$57,200

New formula:

\$4,766/6 household members = \$794.33 x 1 eligible member = **\$794.33 is the monthly gross income**

HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL BE IMPACTED IN OMAHA?

The following people who came to the USA in the last **3 years** will likely be impacted:

- Refugees
- Asylees
- Afghan parolees
- SIVs
- Ukrainians who fled the war in Ukraine

- **Variety of estimates:**

- In 2023, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) reported that **7,000 people in Nebraska were on SNAP who were also refugees and asylees**
 - The majority of these families are likely from Omaha and Lincoln
- **2,763 people from households of four or larger** have been resettled in Omaha over the past 36 months.
 - This number does not include **secondary migrants**
 - We do not know numbers of **other groups** who will be impacted
 - **The total number of impacted people is likely much higher**

LARGER SNAP CHANGES IN NEBRASKA

- **States pick up additional administrative costs for SNAP (Oct 26)**
 - Projected to add \$17 million to Nebraska's program in just administrative costs
- **States now share costs of benefits (Oct 27)**
 - Calculated based on a state's error rate
 - NE's error rate for FY24 was 5.5%; share of cost for benefits begins when error rates exceed 6%

If Nebraska doesn't add
\$17M to the SNAP program
in 2026, it will impact
150,000 people currently
receiving SNAP

LARGER SNAP CHANGES IN NEBRASKA

- **Expands work requirements (immediately)**
 - Broadens age range to include those 55-64 years old
 - Now includes parents with children 14 and older
 - Now includes veterans, homeless populations, and former foster youth
- **Impacts free/reduced price meal access**
 - SNAP data is used to automatically enroll free and reduced price meal participants
 - Will impact the ability to take up CEP for high-poverty school districts



LARGER SNAP CHANGES IN NEBRASKA

17,000

*The total number of people in Nebraska who
are impacted by these changes*

*This loss is estimated to remove around \$30M of federal SNAP benefits
from being spent on groceries in Nebraska communities annually.*

WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

We have to make sure that people who are losing food access are able to get food.

- **This is priority number one for Omaha.**
 - We cannot have families choosing between rent and food
 - We cannot have children coming to school hungry
- **How do we do this?**
 - **Our local food pantries will be a big part of the answer**



WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

Step One:

Get the information about food pantries out to impacted people

There are **flyers** for **12 food pantries** in Omaha that have been translated into **13 languages**

Visit: rdomaha.org/food to download flyers

Please download and post on your agency websites, so more people can have access to this information



WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

Step Two:

Rally behind our food pantries financially


- **Omaha has incredible food pantries**
 - They will need our support to help with the increase in need!
 - Food pantries can buy food wholesale, so donating financially versus dropping off items stretches farther at most pantries (*there are a few that are solely run by donated food*)
- **Each person who is financially able needs to go today and sign up as a monthly supporter**
 - Pick a pantry or two and donate \$10 or \$20 per month (or whatever amount you can)
 - If large numbers of people do this, we can help to support our pantries as they serve thousands more people due to these changes



WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

Step Three: Volunteer

- Volunteer
 - Food pantries will need more hands on deck to serve more people

SUPPORT OMAHA FOOD PANTRIES			
FOOD BANK NAME	FINANCIAL DONATIONS	FOOD DONATIONS ACCEPTED	CONTACT & OTHER INFO
 Heartland Hope Mission		Financial donations preferred; can accept all food accepted, including individual items, pallets of food, refrigerated and frozen food. Can also provide food pick-up for large food drives at companies or organizations	Donations: Matt@HeartlandHopeMission.org 402-733-1904 x 10 Volunteers: Eddimar@HeartlandHopeMission.org 402-733-1904 x 18 Volunteer sign-up here 
 Open Door Mission		Financial donations preferred; list of food items requested here: 	Donations: Amy Harvey, aharvey@opendoormission.org Volunteers sign-up here 
 Heart Ministry Center		None	Donations: Jackie Dumas, jacqueline@heartministrycenter.com Volunteers sign-up here 
 Brookside Care Center		None	Donations: Lorinda Cantoya, lcantoya@brookside.net No volunteers needed
 Eastern Nebraska Community Action		Yes	Donations: JConnor@encapomaha.org Volunteers: TTurner@encapomaha.org
 Kountze Commons Community Outreach Center		All food accepted, including garden produce or wild game	Donations: Toby Rees, toby@kountzecommons.org 402.979.1425 Volunteers sign-up here 
 Together		All unopened food and hygiene items	Donations: Eric Webster, Ewebster@togetheromaha.org Volunteers: Jeri Janz, JJanz@togetheromaha.org Volunteer sign-up here 
 Catholic Charities of Omaha		All unopened food and non-food items or shop on their Amazon wishlist 	Donations: Christine Ochoa (531) 250-5388 or Richard Van Haute (402) 871-4647 Volunteers: Craig Zimmer (531) 359-8458 craigz@ccomaha.org Volunteer sign-up here 
 San Andres Food Pantry		Unopened, unexpired, non-perishable foods are accepted on Wednesdays	Donations and Volunteers: sdivila@icloud.com or dfajardo@greatplainsumc.org Training is required for volunteers

Visit: rdomaha.org/food to download this food pantry engagement matrix

WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

Step Four: Media

- We need **relentless media coverage of these SNAP changes**
 - Show people the uncomfortable and immoral impacts of these cuts
 - Media will be a large driving force to eventually upend this law
- We need **agencies contacting media** to give updates on the impact this is having on their clients
- We need **families impacted** to do interviews
- We need **YOU to share every single story** that is published on your social media platforms



WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

Step Five: Townhalls

We need **YOU** to go to **every townhall** you hear about
...and bring up the SNAP changes

We have to make **elected officials** on every level aware of this crisis.
And call upon their morality. The more people we can get talking, the
more chance that change will happen.

Mayor Ewing has [townhalls](#) coming up:

OCT. 20:

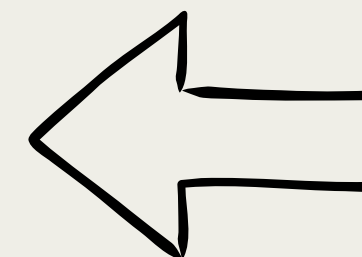
Learning Community Center of North Omaha
1612 N.24th St.
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

OCT. 22:

Montclair Community Center
2304 N. 135th Ave.
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

OCT. 27

Saddlebrook Community Center
14850 Laurel Ave.
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Who's going?

WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

Step Six: Contact State Senators

- We all have to contact our State Senators
 - Share the impact of SNAP cuts in the refugee and immigrant population
 - Push our state senators and legislature to **fund the gap in SNAP administrative costs**
 - Push our state to **support food banks and pantries** meeting the need



WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

Step Seven: Contact Our Federal Delegation



U.S. Senator Pete Ricketts



U.S. Senator Deb Fischer



Congressman Adrian Smith

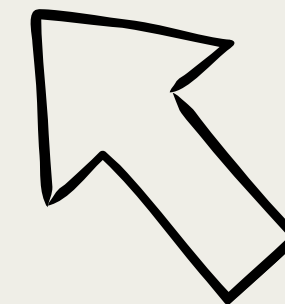


Congressman Don Bacon



Congressman Mike Flood

- **Share the impact of SNAP cuts in the refugee and immigrant population with our federal delegation** (*who all voted to enact these changes*)
- Push for a **full repeal of H.R.1. Support “Restoring Food Security for American Families and Farmers Act of 2025”**. [FRAC email portal](#).



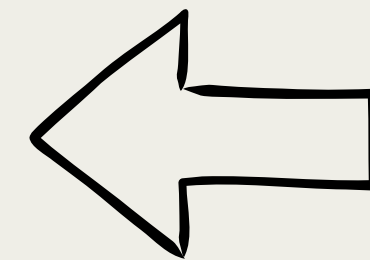
These are our elected officials who all voted for these SNAP cuts. They are the only ones who can fix this permanently by repealing what they voted into law.

STAY UP TO DATE

Join our local Fight for Refugees and Immigrants (FFRI) Advocacy Group

Every other Thursday at 1:00pm

On Zoom



Join here

STAY UP TO DATE

Follow @neappleseed on Facebook, Instagram, X, BlueSky or TikTok

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GROUP DISCUSSION