

March 13, 2025

Senator Maria Cantwell

511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patty Murray

154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Rep. Suzan DelBene

2311 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Emily Randall

1531 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Rick Larsen

2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Pramila Jayapal

2346 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez

1431 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Kim Schrier

1110 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Dan Newhouse

460 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Adam Smith

2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Michael Baumgartner

124 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Marilyn Strickland


1724 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Impact of proposed funding reductions to SNAP and Medicaid in Washington state

Dear Washington State Congressional Delegation:

Thank you for your leadership and service to the residents of Washington state. The Washington Economic Justice Alliance, a state and community partnership to reduce poverty, is writing to express our concerns about the pending congressional budget reconciliation process. As you know, recently Congress voted for budget proposals that would cut billions of dollars from crucial programs that help people meet their most basic needs, including \$230 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and \$880 billion from Medicaid. Congress also proposed major changes to other vital safety net programs like school meals, summer food programs and emergency food assistance. We urge you and your colleagues to protect these programs and the millions of Washingtonians who depend on them.

Weakening these critical services will do irreparable harm to families and individuals in Washington state and across the nation. Supporting the basic needs of our residents is essential for the public health, safety and well-being of our communities, and also has a net positive impact on our economy. SNAP benefits, for example, are typically used within three weeks of receipt and every dollar spent on SNAP generates between \$1.50 and \$1.80 in local economies. Likewise, Medicaid eligibility for children has been found to improve educational outcomes, which along with better health contributes to higher rates of employment and earnings as adults.¹ This, in turn, generates increased tax revenues and reduced spending on public assistance programs.



SNAP provides more than just food assistance. It is a critical support system that promotes food security, economic well-being and better health outcomes by ensuring people have access to sufficient and nutritious foods. Participation in SNAP also provides recipients with pathways to employment and training programs, and direct certification for other benefits like free and reduced-price meals at school.

In Washington's State Fiscal Year 2024:²

- An average of 525,044 households or 920,541 recipients (11.5% of the state population) per month accessed SNAP food assistance. Participation by Congressional District ranges from a low of 6.3% (District 07) to a high of 18% (District 04).³
- Nearly 22% of SNAP households include a working adult.
- More than 52% of SNAP households include an elderly or disabled person.
- Less than 10% of SNAP households received other types of cash assistance.

The proposed cuts to Medicaid will further compound the impact of the proposed cuts on Washingtonians and potentially shift costs to the state. More than 1.5 million people are covered under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), programs that provide Washingtonians and their families with essential, lifesaving health care. Under the proposed cut, most congressional districts could lose \$2 billion in federal funding over nine years, which states cannot afford to replace.⁴

While no specific changes to SNAP and Medicaid have been decided, the proposed outline and targets under consideration are concerning. The detrimental impact of these proposals on the health and well-being of children and families do not align with Washington's values and its commitment to meaningfully reduce poverty in our state.

Attached, please find a fact sheet with data specific to Washington. Thank you for your time and commitment. We stand ready to assist you in your efforts on behalf of Washington.

Sincerely,
Washington Economic Justice Alliance

Attachment

The Economic Justice Alliance is a collaboration between experts with lived experience, community organizations, state and tribal governments, and legislators to reduce poverty in Washington state.

¹ [ASPE DRAFT Medicaid IB 09242024 final](#)

² SFY 2024 SNAP data is taken from the Department of Social and Health Services, Economic Services Administration SFY 2024 Briefing Book: [Briefing Book SFY 2024 Basic Food](#). Note that Food Assistance figures from this source include both federal SNAP and state funded Food Assistance which is approximately 3% of the total population.

³ Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, "SNAP Community Characteristics Dashboard Congressional District Explorer", <https://www.fns.usda.gov/data-research/data-visualization/snap-community-characteristics-congressional-district-dashboard>. (last accessed March 2025)

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, "S2704: Public Health Insurance Coverage by Type and Selected Characteristics, American Community Survey, 2023: ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables," <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S2704?q=S2704> (last accessed March 2025)

SNAP & MEDICAID FACT SHEET

Washington State Program Use by Congressional District



Constituents on SNAP in 2024¹

920,541 individuals

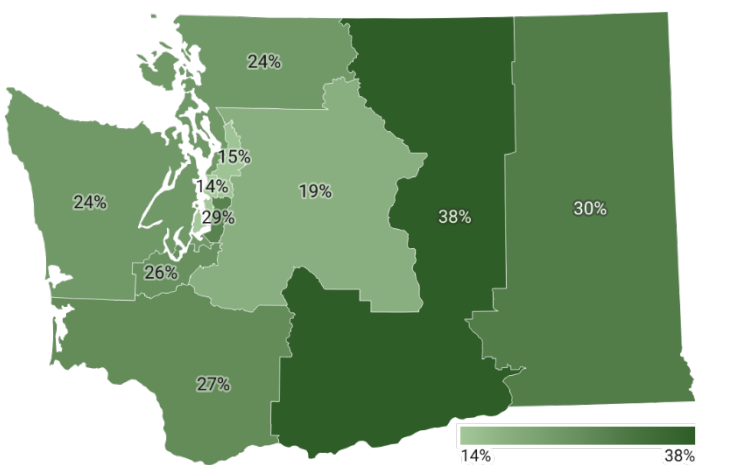
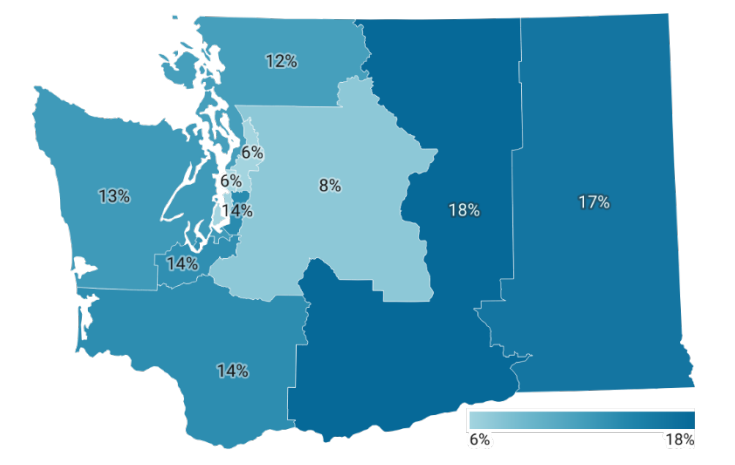
35% are children and **32%** are elderly or disabled

Constituents on Medicaid in 2024²

1,950,826 individuals

45% are children and **15%** are elderly or disabled

Washingtonians from all congressional districts rely on SNAP³ and Medicaid.



District	Representative	% of constituents
1	Rep. Suzan DelBene	6%
2	Rep. Rick Larsen	12%
3	Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez	14%
4	Rep. Dan Newhouse	18%
5	Rep. Michael Baumgartner	17%
6	Rep. Emily Randall	13%
7	Rep. Pramila Jayapal	6%
8	Rep. Kim Schrier	8%
9	Rep. Adam Smith	14%
10	Rep. Marilyn Strickland	14%

District	Representative	% of constituents
1	Rep. Suzan DelBene	15%
2	Rep. Rick Larsen	24%
3	Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp-Perez	27%
4	Rep. Dan Newhouse	38%
5	Rep. Michael Baumgartner	30%
6	Rep. Emily Randall	24%
7	Rep. Pramila Jayapal	14%
8	Rep. Kim Schrier	19%
9	Rep. Adam Smith	29%
10	Rep. Marilyn Strickland	26%

Note: Fact sheet includes most recent data available.

Endnotes:

¹ Economic Services Administration, Department of Social and Health Services, "ESA Briefing Book SFY 2024"

² Health Care Authority (March 2025). "Medicaid in Washington"[PowerPoint slides]

³ Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, "SNAP Community Characteristics Dashboard Congressional District Explorer", <https://www.fns.usda.gov/data-research/data-visualization/snap-community-characteristics-congressional-district-dashboard>. (last accessed March 2025)