



Senate Budget Plan Would Slash SNAP and Shift Billions in Costs to Texas

The Senate-passed budget reconciliation bill threatens to dismantle the nation's most effective anti-hunger program and take food off the tables of vulnerable Texans.

Dallas, TX - July 1, 2025 – Today, the U.S. Senate passed its version of the budget reconciliation bill, and while it differs in some respects from the House proposal, it still represents the most sweeping rollback of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in U.S. history. The bill would slash an estimated \$186 billion from SNAP and fundamentally alter the program's structure by shifting billions in costs to states like Texas.

Since the modern-day inception of SNAP (or "Food Stamps," as it was formerly known) 50 years ago, the federal government has always paid 100% of the cost of benefits, guaranteeing that Americans would have access to critical food assistance during times of individual crisis, economic downturns, and natural disaster no matter where they live.

"If enacted, this bill would represent the largest rollback of food assistance in U.S. history," **said Celia Cole, CEO of Feeding Texas, the state association of food banks.** "The consequences would be profound and devastating. Millions of Americans—including children, seniors, veterans, and working families—could go hungry. In addition to the significant and undue harm for vulnerable Americans, the bill also deals a blow to farmers, grocers, and our state and local economies."

The Senate bill would require states with SNAP error rates above 6% to pay between 5% and 15% of food benefit costs. It would also increase the state share of administrative costs from

50% to 75%. For Texas, this would mean an additional \$89.5 million per year in administrative costs starting in FY2026, and \$716 million per year in food benefits beginning in FY2028, assuming the state maintains its current error rates. These are new costs that Texas has never had to bear before.

Because Texas must balance its budget annually, these new obligations would force lawmakers to either raise new revenue; divert revenue from other essential services like education, healthcare, or public safety; or make the painful decision to reduce SNAP benefits for food insecure Texans.

“SNAP is a lifeline for millions of Texans, especially during times of crisis,” **Cole said.** “The program works because it’s federally funded and responsive to fluctuations in the economy. Offloading benefit costs to states would undermine SNAP’s ability to respond to economic downturns and natural disasters—precisely when families need help the most, and state coffers are most depleted.”

Beyond the cost shift, the bill includes several policy changes that would directly reduce access to food assistance:

- **Expanded Work Requirements:** The bill would subject more seniors (up to age 65) and parents (with children as young as 14) to a harsh three-month time limit unless they can document 20 hours of work per week. It also eliminates exemptions for veterans, people experiencing homelessness, and former foster youth from the time limit.
- **Elimination of SNAP-Ed:** The bill would fully eliminate SNAP-Ed, an evidence-based program that helps state agencies, food banks, and other local organizations provide nutrition education to thousands of Texas families.
- **Limits to the Thrifty Food Plan:** By restricting future updates to the Thrifty Food Plan—the formula used to calculate SNAP benefits—the bill would depress benefit levels for years to come, making it harder for families to afford groceries.

“These changes don’t just cut costs—they cut a lifeline for vulnerable Americans,” **Cole said.** “This is a massive cut that goes well beyond reducing waste and increasing efficiency. These provisions target families with kids, seniors, veterans, and those most in need of support. They dismantle the very tools that help Texans put food on the table and build healthier futures.”

SNAP already provides modest support—just six dollars per person per day—but it plays an outsized role in fighting hunger. Cutting this support would increase food insecurity in Texas and place even more pressure on charitable food systems.

Food banks across the state are already stretched thin. Over the past year, the Feeding Texas network has seen a surge in demand not witnessed since the height of the pandemic. Families are struggling to afford groceries, healthcare, rent, and transportation—all while inflation continues to squeeze household budgets.

“This proposal threatens to take food off the tables of children, seniors, veterans, and working families across Texas,” **said Trisha Cunningham, president and CEO of the North Texas Food Bank.** “SNAP is one of the most effective tools we have to fight hunger, and shifting costs to states like ours only puts more people at risk. At a time when need is rising, this plan would do lasting harm not just to those we serve, but to the entire charitable food system. We urge lawmakers to reject these cuts and protect access to food for the millions of Americans who count on it.”

The Feeding Texas network includes 20 food banks and over 3,000 local partners, most of them faith-based, working together to fight hunger in every corner of the state. But no charitable effort can replace the scale and impact of SNAP.

“Texas food banks are united in our plea: We urge members of the House to stop this bill from moving forward, to reject these harmful provisions in conference negotiations, and to protect the integrity of SNAP for the millions of Americans who rely on it,” **Cole said.** “A federal budget should reflect our nation’s shared values of dignity, opportunity, and a commitment to ensuring that no one in this country goes hungry. Lawmakers must come together to craft a more balanced and compassionate path forward—one that protects access to food for all.”

Take action today by contacting your lawmaker at 1-800-708-8229 or submitting a simple digital form urging your elected officials to protect SNAP at <https://act.feedingamerica.org/1jUhd42A5Eqr1ngPbhO-JA2>

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About Feeding Texas

Feeding Texas is a network of 20 food banks and leads a unified effort for a hunger-free Texas. Learn more and find your local food bank at feedingtexas.org.

About the North Texas Food Bank

The North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) is a leading nonprofit organization that fights hunger and provides children, seniors and families in North Texas access to nutritious food. For over 40 years, we have been at the forefront of hunger relief, committed to ensuring that no one in our community lacks access to healthy food. Our extensive network of 500 food pantries and organizations, volunteers, and donors enables us to deliver more than 118 million physical meals annually to those in need. Beyond just addressing hunger, we focus on nourishing lives by offering nutrition education, investing in our network partners, innovating solutions to eliminate hunger and advocating for policies that tackle the root causes of food insecurity.

Our dedication to excellence is reflected in our 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, highlighting our strong governance, integrity, and financial stability. As a proud member of Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger relief network, we are committed to ensuring everyone in North Texas has the nourishment needed to lead a healthy and fulfilling life. For more information, visit www.ntfb.org or connect with us on social media @NorthTexasFoodBank.

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