

NTFB VOICE

Advocacy Update

ADVOCATING FOR A HUNGER-FREE, HEALTHY NORTH TEXAS



Summer 2025

Federal News

Congress has recessed for the month of August, and this has been one of the most grueling sessions in recent memory. House Speaker Mike Johnson said, “I am tired of making history. I just want a normal Congress, but some people have forgotten what that looks like”. Having passed the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB), representatives will return home to their districts to engage with their constituents.

So how will the OBBB affect the work we do and the neighbors we serve? The law will profoundly restructure the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and make unprecedented cuts of around \$186 billion to the program over the next ten years through a variety of measures. It also alters the program’s structure by shifting billions in costs to states like Texas.

The amount Texas must take on depends on its error processing rates made by the Texas Department of Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). Error rates are calculated by the number of overpayments and underpayments in benefits. Beginning October 1, 2026, SNAP administrative program costs shift from 50% to 75% in Texas, which will cost the state \$89.5 million per year. Beginning October 1, 2027, the SNAP benefit cost in Texas will shift from 0% to 15% based on the FY24 error rate. The Texas Legislature will have to come up with \$716 million per year for these food benefits.

By the Numbers



3.2 million people in Texas received SNAP benefits in federal Fiscal Year 2024. In 2022, the most recent year with SNAP household data, SNAP participants included 1.7 million children and 429,000 seniors.



In FY2024, states issued nearly \$94 billion for SNAP food benefits, including \$7.2 billion in Texas.

The law also eliminates funding for [SNAP-ED](#) effective October 1, 2025. SNAP-Ed is an evidence-based program that provides nutrition education to thousands of Texas families and funds 16 Texas organizations, including the [North Texas Food Bank](#). Texas received \$25 million per year to support this education.

Commented [TC1]: Can you specify if this is just Texas? I did take out the part about continuing to fund because it may look different once we know more.

There are several new provisions in the bill regarding the SNAP program that will take effect immediately or as soon as they can be implemented by HHSC.

- The law narrows SNAP exceptions for work requirements for able-bodied adults and increases the age that able-bodied adults must continue working to 64, from 54 in the previous law.
- Individuals will be subject to time limits if they have someone aged 14 years or older in their household. Previously, they were excused from time limits if they had someone under the age of 18 in their household.
- It adds a time limit on benefits for veterans, those experiencing homelessness, and those age 24 or younger and in foster care on their 18th birthday.
- It is estimated that approximately 275,000 Texans will lose some or all benefits.

We recognize the challenges Congress faces in crafting a bill that balances responsible federal spending and improves existing programs. But the reality is that these cuts are increasing pressure on families. These are people doing their best to get back on their feet – people who value work, independence, and personal responsibility, but who now face greater challenges putting food on the table or accessing basic care.

At NTFB, we will continue showing up every day for the neighbors in North Texas – making sure families have access to nutritious food and the dignity that comes with it. But this law will make that task harder in the months and years ahead. We need your help to get more food to our shelves, more meals into homes, and more support into the hands of those who need it most. Now it's more important than ever to stand together so we can help ensure that no one in our community goes without the food they need to thrive.

When Congress returns to Washington, DC, in September, it will have to pass the FY25 budget and avoid a government shutdown by the September 30 deadline. The Farm Bill extension also expires on September 30, so it will either need to be passed (doubtful) or extended for the third time. Next, they need to pass the FY26 budget that begins on October 1, 2025.

Our elected officials have been supportive of our work in the past, so we are hopeful we can work together on alternative solutions. You can send a message to your representatives to strengthen SNAP in the next Farm Bill [here!](#)

Breaking news: The USDA just announced \$230 million in food purchases of fresh seafood, fruits, and vegetables to be distributed by food banks through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). We are grateful to the USDA and to the U.S. farmers, growers, and producers whose work makes this possible.

State News

The Texas Legislature wrapped up the 89th Regular Session on June 2. This day is often called "[sine die](#)," a Latin term that means "without day." It refers to the final adjournment of a session of a legislative body because they don't set a date to meet next.

Considering only about 14% of bills filed during the legislative session pass into law, the North Texas

Food Bank, in partnership with Feeding Texas, had a successful session. As you read in the Spring Edition of the *Advocacy Update*, over 60 advocates from North Texas traveled to Austin to meet with lawmakers. Those who attended were from our agency partners, affinity groups, board members, NTFB staff, and University of Texas at Dallas students. The Senate honored our group by proclaiming April 2, 2025, Food Bank Day at the Capitol. I am so grateful to everyone who took the time to meet with their representatives. It does make a difference when lawmakers hear about the work being done in their districts to help those who are food insecure.

Together, the Feeding Texas network, which includes NTFB, tracked 142 bills throughout the session, participated in multiple virtual advocacy days, sent hundreds of emails to legislators, in addition to traveling to Austin. Here's a look at some of the wins from this session:

Food is Medicine [HB 26](#) / [SB 3001](#)

This bill authorizes the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to allow Medicaid financing for nutritional counseling and instruction for certain patients. The bill also includes a pilot program for Medically Tailored Meals and other "evidence-based support services" for high-risk pregnant women, as well as an evaluation of that program's impact on maternal and infant health outcomes.

Funding to Support TIERS (Texas Integrated Eligibility Redesign System)

HHSC uses TIERS to determine the financial eligibility of individuals applying for or receiving public assistance benefits such as SNAP and Medicaid. The system is 20 years old and is causing delays and errors in processing applications. Nearly \$300 million was approved to allow HHSC to address current and ongoing challenges with meeting federal timeliness and error rates.

Nonprofit Food Banks Exempt from Motor Vehicle Sales Tax [HB 4226](#)

This bill exempts nonprofit food banks like NTFB from the state sales tax on the purchase, rental or use of motor vehicles used for food bank operations. That includes trucks, tractor-trailers, refrigerated vehicles, meal delivery vans and other vehicles.

Summer EBT

The [Summer EBT program](#) is federally funded through the USDA and would provide low-income families with children access to \$120 in food benefits during the summer. The USDA estimates that 3.75 million Texas children could be eligible to receive approximately \$450 million in food support through the program. The administrative costs to administer the program are split 50/50 between the state and federal government. Texas' share of the cost is \$60 million. It was included in the state budget that passed through the House and the Senate. However, Gov. Abbott vetoed that funding due to the proposed SNAP state cost-sharing plan in Congress. As legislation is not necessarily required, **we will continue to advocate for Summer EBT.**

Streamline SNAP Eligibility

We also advocated for [streamlining SNAP eligibility](#) checks at six months, though that issue did not receive a hearing in either the House or Senate. The measure called for the implementation of periodic reporting in an effort to save on administrative costs while enhancing program integrity.

Additional Funding Secured

- \$20.4 million Surplus Agriculture Products grant, which provides food banks with produce, protein, and other items from farmers.
- \$6 million was approved for the Nutrition Incentive Programs, which provide SNAP participants with matching dollars when they buy groceries from farmers markets and other select retailers.

During this session, over 8,700 bills were filed and over 1,200 passed, a 13.9% passage rate. So, we consider the session a success in helping the food-insecure. We are grateful to everyone who advocated for these issues, whether it was meeting with their legislators or reaching out to them by phone or email; every action makes an impact!

Even though the Texas Legislative Session finished, Governor Greg Abbott convened a special session that began on July 21 and will last for 30 days. Agenda items include issues surrounding the Hill County floods, warning systems, emergency communications, disaster preparedness and recovery. Also on the list are property taxes, water project incentives, and congressional redistricting. There is nothing on the agenda that relates directly to food-insecurity. The 90th legislative session will be convened in January of 2027.

I am not sure if U.S. House Speaker Johnson will get his wish for a “normal session” this fall, but we will continue to advocate on the important issues that affect our neighbors who are food-insecure. For now, I hope the rest of your summer is relaxing.

Sincerely,

Clarissa Clarke
Government Relations Officer
North Texas Food Bank

