



Our webinar will begin shortly.





Welcome!



NETWORK Demands a Moral Budget!

*Our Plan to Protect Medicaid,
Housing, and Food*



Zoom Webinar

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Agenda for Tonight

Our Agenda

- ☀️ Grounding Ourselves In Catholic Social Justice
- ☀️ State of Play: Budget, Debt Ceiling, and the People and Programs at Risk
- ☀️ Protecting Medicaid
- ☀️ Threats to Affordable Housing
- ☀️ Protecting SNAP and WIC
- ☀️ Call to Action
- ☀️ Q&A

Our Speakers



Mary J. Novak
Executive Director



Laura Peralta-Schulte
Senior Director of Public Policy
and Government Relations



Jarret K. Smith
Government Relations Advocate



JoAnn Goedert
Government Relations Fellow



Catherine Gillette
Senior Grassroots Mobilization
Organizer



Meg Olson
Grassroots Mobilization Director

Two Visions for the Budget

Biden Budget V. House Budget

- ☀️ Biden Budget: Expands social safety net programs & funds them by closing tax loop holes for the ultra-wealthy and corporations
- ☀️ House Budget: House MAGA Republicans want to cut human needs programs to pay down the deficit
 - All Republicans want to extend the Trump Tax Cuts regardless of deficit

Leverage: Debt Ceiling

- ☀️ The debt ceiling is the upper limit of what the U.S. can borrow to pay our bills
- ☀️ This is usually a non-controversial vote
- ☀️ We must pay our bills or risk economic calamity
- ☀️ **House MAGA Republicans are playing with fire**

We Can't Repeat History...

- ☀ In 2011, Republicans demanded the *Budget Control Act*, in exchange for a debt ceiling vote
- ☀ 10 years of cuts to human needs programs

We Want a Clean Debt Ceiling Bill

- ☀️ Congress should not tie passage of a debt ceiling bill to budget cuts
- ☀️ We appreciate that programs must be sufficient and sustainable, however, **it is immoral to balance the budget on the backs of those in poverty**
- ☀️ Bringing down the deficit must include:
 - Raising taxes on the wealthy and corporations so they pay their fair share
 - Cutting waste, fraud, and abuse in the Pentagon and/or funding for the Border

Targeting Those in Poverty

- ☀ False assumptions about people who receive benefits
- ☀ Assumptions rooted in stereotypes based on race, gender, disability status, and class
- ☀ Critics ignore the realities of the low-paid labor market –“Gig Workers”
 - Poverty wages for full-time work
 - Labor market discrimination
 - Lack of childcare, paid sick and family leave
 - Lack of understanding how health and disability issues and the need to care for family members affect people’s lives

What Programs Are at Risk?

With Social Security and Medicare off the table (for now), look for cuts to:

Health Care

- Medicaid

Housing

- Public Housing programs
- Vouchers

Food

- SNAP
- WIC

Protecting Medicaid

Medicaid Is at Risk

- ☀️ **Medicaid supports older adults and people with disabilities**—nearly 17 million people with disabilities and older adults
- ☀️ **Medicaid supports children**—Nearly half of all U.S. children (over 41 million) including half of the 14 million children with special health care needs
- ☀️ **Medicaid supports women**—nearly 17 million non-elderly adult women and the largest single payer of pregnancy-related services, financing 42% of all U.S. births

Protecting Medicaid

- ☀️ **Medicaid supports people of color and underserved communities** - source of health coverage for people of color, who represent 59% of non-elderly Medicaid enrollees
- ☀️ **Medicaid supports more people in rural areas**-- 24% are enrolled in Medicaid then in urban areas (22%)
- ☀️ **Medicaid supports people with mental health conditions and substance use disorders** - Single largest payer for mental health services, including Substance abuse treatment
- ☀️ **Medicaid supports people with HIV/AIDS** - Single largest source of health care for people with HIV/AIDS and covers 42% of all people getting regular treatment for HIV

Cuts and Structural Change

Threats to Medicaid

- ☀️ **More Red Tape and Time Limits:** Taking Medicaid coverage away from people who don't document that they meet a work requirement
- ☀️ **Per Capita Caps & Block Grants**
- ☀️ **Both Changes:**
 - Transform federal Medicaid funding from a payment on a state's actual health care costs to a capped payment based on a preset formula
 - Will lead to radical cuts in federal Medicaid funding, effectively resulting in a massive cost-shift to states
 - Will lead to states slashing services for older adults, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, children in poverty, and other vulnerable populations

Threats to Affordable Housing

Republican House Conference proposes deep FY24 budget cuts to social service programs. This means:

- ☀️ Monumental increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness nearly
- ☀️ Insolvent public housing developments
- ☀️ Termination of contracts with landlords who provide Project-Based Rental Assistance

Threats to Affordable Housing

Republican House Conference proposed FY24 budget cuts to social service programs by the numbers:

☀️ Housing Vouchers:

- FY22 Flat-350,000 families lose voucher support
- 22% cut to 2023 levels—will stop funding for 640,000 families' vouchers

☀️ Public or Project Housing:

- FY22 Flat-87,000 families will lose their homes
- 22% cut to 2023 levels translates to 78% proration of operating funds
- 22% cut means that 286,000 families will be subjected to Market Rent

Protecting SNAP

Our Most Essential Tool for Addressing Hunger is Under Threat

Only Supports Those with the Greatest Need:

- ☀️ 92% of benefits go to households at or below the federal poverty level
- ☀️ 13% of U.S. residents receive SNAP, and 1 in 4 are children
- ☀️ SNAP provides just enough grocery funding for subsistence
 - Average benefit is \$6.10/day
 - SNAP benefits were just cut by \$90/month per person—while food inflation skyrockets

Protecting SNAP

Our Most Essential Tool for Addressing Hunger is Under Threat

SNAP Does More than Prevent Hunger

- ☀ Every \$1 in SNAP benefits creates \$1.80 in economic activity
- ☀ SNAP improves the health, education, and economic self-sufficiency of recipients
 - Lower rates of diabetes, obesity, anemia, and psychological distress
 - Lower risk of childhood developmental issues and higher educational achievement
 - Lower health care costs and reduced need for other public assistance

Protecting WIC

WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) provides nourishing food and other services to low-income pregnant and post-partum individuals and their children

- ☀ Serves approximately 6 million low-income pregnant, postpartum, and nursing individuals at “nutritional risk” and their children
 - Only provides for “nutritionally important” food: milk, formula, baby food, whole grains, fruits, and vegetables
 - Local WIC clinics provide nutrition, breastfeeding, and smoking cessation counseling and classes, and referrals for health care and social services
- ☀ Average WIC benefit is \$57/month per recipient

Protecting WIC

WIC is effective in getting children off to a healthy start in life

- ☀️ WIC improves health and development outcomes for parents and children
 - Healthier births
 - Better nutrition and reduced anemia and other vitamin deficiencies
 - Strong connections to preventative care
 - Improved early education outcomes and future education prospects

WIC has always been bipartisan, and that must continue by fully funding \$6.3 billion for 6.5 million participants in the FY24 Biden Budget

Threats to Food Programs

- ☀️ Food programs, especially SNAP, are threatened from many directions in the 118th Congress
 - All programs threatened by spending caps and block grants
 - SNAP is targeted already with dangerous work requirements in GOP rhetoric, including the so-called “America Works Act,” with more than 20 GOP sponsors
- ☀️ Talk of work requirements plays to false—and racist—mythology
 - The false myth is that SNAP is too easy to access for people who should be/could be working
 - The facts are the opposite: SNAP already has strict and complex work requirements, and most adult SNAP participants work low-paying jobs

Threats to Food Programs

- ☀ Under the “America Works Act,” 1 in 4 participants, including 4 million children would lose SNAP, including:
 - Grandparents caring for children
 - Persons with disabilities struggling with years-long delays and red tape in disability application and appeal processes
 - Seasonal and gig workers with unstable employment opportunities
- ☀ More requirements add to SNAP’s maze of bureaucratic hurdles
- ☀ No evidence that work requirements improve stable employment or living wages

Threats to Food Programs

- ☀ Real risk that work requirements mythology could spread to other life-sustaining programs

More work requirements can only add red tape obstacles with devastating harm to vulnerable people with no real benefits. Along with other cuts to hunger programs, we must resist them!

Recap and Next Steps

- ☀ **Expect House Budget in April**
- ☀ **Concrete Plan of Cuts**
 - Debt Ceiling must be raised between June and August
- ☀ **Advocacy Goal:** Medicaid, housing, and food programs should not be cut or modified with additional hurdles in any budget deal
- ☀ **To balance the budget, Congress must insist that the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes and cut Defense or the militarization of the border.**

Join Our Campaign!

- ☀️ **Raise Awareness about Proposed Budget Cuts**
- ☀️ **Build Power and Relationships**
- ☀️ **Generate Advocacy in Your Community**



Our Success Depends on YOU!

- ☀️ **Advocacy Goal:** Medicaid, housing, and food programs should **NOT** be cut or modified with additional hurdles in any budget deal.
- ☀️ **Targets:** Action is needed everywhere!
- ☀️ **Timeline:** Plan all of your events by the end of May.
- ☀️ **Toolkit:** NETWORK is ready to support you in your advocacy.

Campaign Tactics

- ☀ Lobby Visits
- ☀ Letters to the Editor
- ☀ Canvassing
- ☀ Site Visits
- ☀ Rallies
- ☀ Prayer Vigil
- ☀ Shared Meal



Holy Imagination

We need you to show up in bold and creative ways!



Questions?

*Please type your questions
into the Q&A Box*



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Thank you!

