



H.R.1: What Advocates Need to Know

Impacts, common questions and how to partner
with New Jersey Human Services

H.R. 1 Impact in New Jersey

Federal pressure, including but not limited to:

- H.R. 1 – sweeping, unprecedented cuts to NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid and SNAP
- Medicaid waiver renewals impacting a range of programs
- Shifting federal legal and program implementation
- Inconsistent federal grant funding
- Increased scrutiny on programs including home and community-based services

Creating significant strain to:

- Fiscal
- Service delivery
- Casework



H.R.1: Overview



MEDICAID / NJ FAMILYCARE

- Changes to eligibility for certain noncitizens took effect October 1, 2026
- New community-engagement requirements beginning January 1, 2027
- More frequent renewals for certain adults



SNAP

- Changes to noncitizen eligibility took effect April 10, 2026
- Expanded work requirements for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) are affecting additional NJ residents
- Potential changes to benefits and household eligibility

For Food Security Advocates

- **IMPACT:** Some residents may lose benefits or need to take action to maintain eligibility.
- These programs are state-supervised and county-administered
- Human Services has tools to help you guide clients with questions



NJ FamilyCare: Changes to Eligibility for Certain Noncitizens

Effective October 1, 2026

- Federal changes limit which non-citizen statuses qualify for federally funded Medicaid/CHIP coverage.
- NJ Human Services has identified **approximately 25,000 potentially impacted adult members.**
- Eligible members can maintain coverage by providing documentation of a qualifying immigration status.
- Members retained eligibility through **September 30, 2026.**

Who Remains Eligible?

Includes:

- ✓ U.S. citizens and nationals
- ✓ Lawful Permanent Residents of at least 5 years
- ✓ Cuban/Haitian entrants
- ✓ Compacts of Free Association (COFA) migrants
- ✓ Children under 19

Who May Lose Eligibility?

Includes noncitizens who are:

- ✓ Refugees
- ✓ Asylees
- ✓ Temporary humanitarian parolees
- ✓ Victims of human trafficking

See more details on October 1 non-citizen eligibility changes at: <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/obbba/non-citizen>

Non-Citizen Eligibility: Status Update

- Approximately **25,000** potentially impacted adult members have been identified.
- Outreach letters were sent to members whose qualifying status could not be verified.
- DHS did not hear back from 10,400 potentially impacted members who were sent letters.
- After October 1, members who received a letter and believe they may still be eligible are urged to respond to allow NJ FamilyCare to determine whether they can regain coverage.

NJ FAMILYCARE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Department of Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services

Immigration Status Reporting Form

I believe I will still qualify for NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid under the new federal rules starting October 1, 2026. My status as of October 1, 2026, will be (choose 1):

Status	What to submit (send copies, not originals)
☐ U.S. citizen or U.S. national	Proof of citizenship / U.S. Passport
☐ Pregnant and lawfully present	Immigration documents (see back of page) Number of babies expected _____ Due date (MM/DD/YYYY) ____ / ____ / ____
☐ Under age 21 and lawfully present	Immigration documents (see back of page)
☐ Lawful Permanent Resident or any other qualifying status of at least 5 years	Front and back of Lawful Permanent Resident card ("Green Card") Any other immigration documents
☐ Adjusted to Lawful Permanent Resident from: ☐ Refugee ☐ Asylee	Front and back of Lawful Permanent Resident card ("Green Card") Immigration documents

Non-citizen Initial Letter

NJ FAMILYCARE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Department of Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services

[First Name] [LastName]
[Street 1], [Street 2]
[City], [State] [Zip]

RESPOND BY: [DATE]
REFERENCE NUMBER:
Member: [First Name] [Last Name]
Medicaid ID: [MEIN]

on documents (see back of page)
on documents (see back of page)

VERIFICATION NUMBER:
Ver: [First Name] [Last Name]
Medicaid ID: [MEIN]

www.VerifyQS.com (recommended for
23 (Please allow 3-5 business days for

IMPORTANT NOTICE: ACTION NEEDED

Dear [First Name] [Last Name],

The federal government has changed the rules on who is eligible for NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid. It's important to understand how these changes may affect your NJ FamilyCare coverage. Beginning October 1, 2026, some non-citizen immigrants will no longer qualify for NJ FamilyCare due to changes in federal law. The federal non-citizen eligibility rules can be found at 42 CFR 435.406 and Section 71109 of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

NJ FamilyCare has partnered with HMS, an independent contractor located in Texas, to collect information to verify immigration status for NJ FamilyCare members. Our records show that your immigration status may not qualify under the new rules. If it does not, your NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid coverage will be terminated on September 30, 2026.

An Immigration Status Reporting Form is included with this letter. On the back of that form, there is a list of immigration statuses that can qualify for NJ FamilyCare beginning October 1, 2026. Read the list carefully.

If you think you have a question, please respond to the form and fax it to the address below.

For questions or to check the status of your response, you may also call (855) 635-6355.

Respond ASAP if You Received this Envelope!

NJ FAMILYCARE
NJ FamilyCare Verification
PO Box 165508
Irving, TX 75016-8923

Response Required

[First Name] [Last Name]
[Street 1], [Street 2]
[City], [State] [Zip]

hms
HMS REFERENCE BARCODE

NJ FamilyCare: New Community Engagement Requirements Beginning January 1, 2027

- Certain adults ages 19–64 will need to meet a **community engagement requirement** to maintain or qualify for NJ FamilyCare.
- The requirement may be met through:



Work



Volunteering



School

- Some individuals are exempt.
- NJ FamilyCare coverage must be renewed every **6 months** for affected adults.
- Requirements will be checked at application and renewal.

A Tool Staff Can Give Clients

NJ FamilyCare Activity Requirements Checker

- A short questionnaire helps individuals determine whether the new federal community-engagement requirements may apply to them.

<https://njfcchecker.nj.gov/>

Use this resource if a client asks:

“Does the new Medicaid work requirement apply to me?”

NJ FamilyCare Activity Requirements Checker

Keeping you covered

Check if the new rules for Medicaid apply to you

This tool will help you find out if these rules apply to you or if you are exempt.

Check if these rules apply to me →

SNAP: Key H.R. 1 Impact in New Jersey

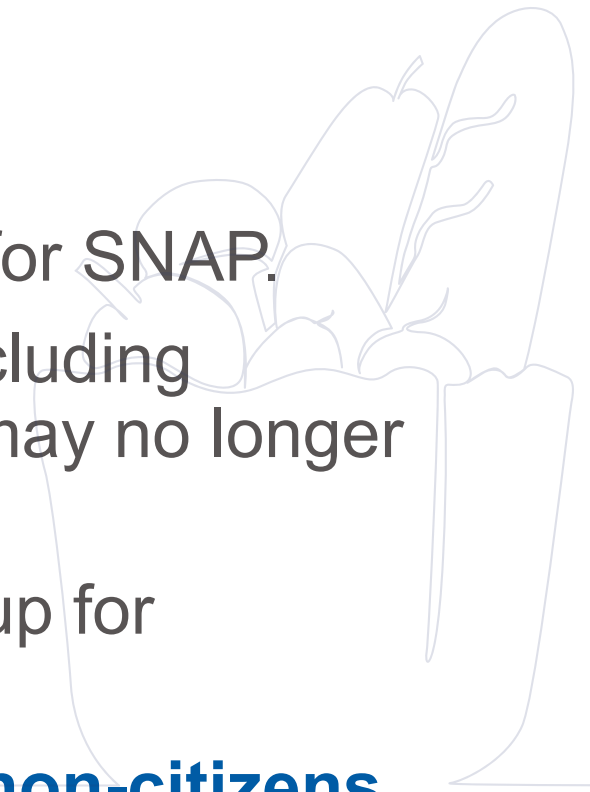
- SNAP participation could decrease by as many as 47,000 people in a given month.
- State and county administrative costs are expected to increase by approximately \$100 million annually.
- State costs associated with SNAP benefit payment errors could reach \$300 million annually.



SNAP Changes to Eligibility for Certain Non-Citizens

Effective April 10, 2026

- H.R. 1 narrowed the categories of non-citizens eligible for SNAP.
- Individuals in several previously eligible categories—including refugees, asylees and certain survivors of trafficking—may no longer qualify.
- Changes are being implemented as households come up for recertification.
- Per CBO projections, NJ expects approximately **1,800 non-citizens per month**, on average, to become ineligible for SNAP.



SNAP: Expanded Work Requirements

H.R. 1 expands the ABAWD work requirement to **more than 45,000 additional New Jersey residents.**

- **More than 35,000 individuals lost SNAP benefits since May.**
- Human Services is working to connect affected individuals with employment, volunteer and training opportunities.

The Impact is Nationwide

KFF Health News Trump 2.0
Food Aid Enrollment Tanks After SNAP Rule Changes

Food Aid Enrollment Tanks After SNAP Rule Changes

After President Donald Trump signed the Beautiful Bill Act more than a year ago, enrollment in the federal food assistance program dropped rapidly across the nation as states enforced new restrictions and prepared to take on more of the costs.

This story also ran on [Verite News](#). It can be [republished for free](#).

Nationally, an estimated [5 million, or 13%, fewer people](#) were enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP or food stamps, this June than in July 2025, when the law was enacted. Louisiana saw one of the most precipitous declines, dropping about 170,000 people, or 21% of state enrollees, according to federal data.

“We haven’t seen a decline of this magnitude in about three decades,” said [Joseph Llobrera](#), senior director of research on food assistance at the left-leaning Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, which did the analysis.

Meanwhile, food prices [rose nearly 3%](#) from August 2025 to this August, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Elected officials, policy analysts, and anti-hunger advocates are pressing Congress to delay provisions in the law that will cut federal funding for food benefits and steeply increase the cost for states. They want to insert the delay in the Farm Bill, which is pending in the Senate.

H.R. 1 was not our choice. Standing still is not an option...and we are already moving forward.

SNAP Resources for Clients



To apply for food, cash or
childcare assistance or to
check case status or submit
changes/documentation:
www.MyNJHelps.gov



SNAP updates:
www.NJSNAP.gov



Find County Social
Services Agency
www.nj.gov/human-services/dfd/counties

NJ FamilyCare: Resources for Clients

To Apply for NJ FamilyCare or to Check Status on an Existing case:

www.NJFamilyCare.org

1-800-701-0710

Federal Medicaid changes:

<http://federalmedicaidchanges.nj.gov>

Check Community Engagement Requirements:

www.njfcchecker.nj.gov

For Guidance Regarding the New Requirements or to Update Contact Information:

Expansion Adult Member Number
1-833-409-2370

If the client received a community-engagement letter, direct them to the Expansion Adult Member number.



Michael J. Wilson

Deputy Commissioner for Social Services
New Jersey Human Services

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Criteria Changes

- ABAWD age range went from 18-54 to between the ages of **18 and 64** (the month after turning 18 and the month of turning 65)
- Work requirement exception went from those with dependent children from households with children under the age of 18 to households with children under the age of 14
- Removed the following exceptions:
 - Age 18 to 24 and in foster care when they turned 18;
 - Lacking a regular nighttime residence or living in a shelter, halfway house, temporary residence (for not more than 90 days), or a place not ordinarily used for sleeping; or
 - Currently serving/have ever served in the military, including the reserves, regardless of the conditions of any discharge or release.



Valerie Mielke

Deputy Commissioner for Health Services

New Jersey Human Services

Summary of changes under the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA) /H.R.1

Provision	Policy	Effective date	Estimated impact
Non-citizen eligibility	Some non-citizens who do not have lawful permanent resident status may no longer qualify for NJ FamilyCare / Medicaid	October 1, 2026	~15-25K non-citizens
Community engagement (also known as work requirements)	Expansion Adults will have to work, go to school, volunteer, or participate in a job training program for at least 80 hours per month to qualify for or keep their coverage, unless they qualify for an exclusion or exception	January 1, 2027	~540K Expansion Adults
6-month renewals	Expansion Adults , except for Alaska natives or members of a federally recognized American Indian tribe, will have to renew their coverage every 6 months instead of every 12 months		
Shortened retroactive coverage	Expansion Adults who receive care before applying for NJ FamilyCare can only be reimbursed for costs incurred in the month immediately before application, instead of up to 3 months before. Non-Expansion members are impacted by similar changes.		

 Across OBBBA provisions, an estimated **~165K-300K NJ FamilyCare members could lose coverage** by end of SFY28



Johanna Calle

Director, Office of New Americans

New Jersey Human Services

Noncitizen Population Impacts

HR1 Beyond Mainstream Benefits

- Increased Fees on Immigration Benefits
- Increased funding for immigration and border enforcement

Public Charge Rule

- Proposed changes are broad
- May create confusion and fear of accessing programs and benefits

Temporary Protective Status

- Revokes lawful employment authorization
- Revokes deportation protections

Immigration Enforcement

- Increased Arrests and Detentions
- Fear of engaging with public benefits

Thank you!