

Legislative Review – Week Ending July 11, 2025

Federal

Budget News

After Senate and House passage earlier in the week, on July 4, President Trump signed into law a sweeping tax and spending bill (P.L. 119-21). The law extends the 2017 Trump tax cuts, increases defense spending, raises the debt limit, among a host of other provisions, and offsets some of that spending by making significant cuts to social programs like Medicaid (NJ FamilyCare in New Jersey) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

- The law includes several changes to SNAP including:
 - **Work requirements:** Able-bodied adults up to the age of 64 years must work a minimum of 80 hours per month. This includes parents of children 14 years of age and older, who had previously been exempt. Volunteer work may count towards the 80 hours, which could align with nonprofits' operational needs. An effective date is not specified. As per Ballotpedia ([Ballotpedia News, June 25, 2025](#)), searching for work does not meet the new work requirements encompassed in the budget, however there is a small allowance for supervised job searches.
 - The law requires that states start covering part of the cost of SNAP benefits for the first time. The cost would depend on their payment error rate in the program, up to a 15% share for states with an error rate higher than 10%. States will also have to pay 75% of the administrative expenses for SNAP.
 - A carveout that extends the time available to certain states to absorb benefit costs has been put forth/adopted. Read more here ([Questions Raised Over SNAP Costs Being Delayed for Some States - Newsweek](#)).
 - The cost sharing (excluding states named in the carveout) is set to begin as early as October 2027, while the expanded administrative costs will begin in October 2026.
 - The bill caps inflation adjustments to the Thrifty Food Plan, the basis for SNAP. This reduces the benefit for all participants going forward. An effective date for this provision of the law is not specified.
 - SNAP eligibility has been limited to U.S. citizens and lawful, permanent residents and now excludes most refugees and asylees without permanent resident status. The effective date is not specified.
 - The SNAP-Ed program, which serves the entire state, is being terminated.
- Cuts to SNAP, in addition to Medicaid (NJ FamilyCare), may have a domino effect on programs like school meals. As individuals may no longer qualify for these programs, schools may see reductions to the identified student percentages (ISP), which is the percent of students enrolled in means-tested programs like SNAP and Medicaid (NJ

FamilyCare). A drop in ISP may result in fewer students having access to free school meals.

- For specific information regarding cuts to Medicaid (NJ FamilyCare) and SNAP, please visit [NJ Department of Human Services | Impact of Medicaid and SNAP Cuts on New Jersey](#).

Agriculture News

(Politico, July 7, [Now what? - POLITICO](#)) Now that the budget reconciliation bill has been passed and signed, the House Agriculture Committee is set to resume work on the farm bill.

- Lawmakers included \$67B in spending on farm bill programs in the reconciliation package.
- According to the article, “A key group of other farm programs need to be extended, funded or updated, though House Ag Chair G.T. Thompson (R-Pa.) said he expects the ‘farm bill 2.0’ to cost less than \$8B. Thompson said last week that he’s focused on including bipartisan bills in the next farm bill package, largely based on what the House Ag Committee advanced in May 2024”.
- Per the article, some Democrats have warned that they won’t come to the table for farm bill talks after Republicans significantly cut climate and nutrition spending — which are traditionally Democratic priorities in the farm bill coalition.

Upcoming Events

- *Wednesday, July 30, Utility Assistance Day, hosted by the Office of Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson, Mercer County’s James Kearny Campus, Trenton*

Resources from OFSA and Our Agency Colleagues

The [NJ Summer Resource Packet](#) is a compilation of resources accessible to students and their families during the summer months when school is not in session. The packet includes flyers and one-pagers regarding youth mental health, Summer EBT nutritional benefits, summer meals, water safety, and much more. Take a look and share it with your community.

**NJ Mental Health Resources
for Students and Parents**

**Summer EBT
for NJ Families**



WATER SAFETY 
POOLS, WATERPARKS, BEACHES, LAKES & RIVERS

With support from the NJ Office of the Food Security Advocate (OFSA), Trenton Health Team's newly expanded **Food Insecurity Index** now offers insights about ALL New Jersey counties, after only previously offering data about three. The Index is a tool that can be used by organizations and leaders alike to make data-informed decisions about where to target outreach and programs by highlighting the areas most in need. Check out how Middlesex County partners are using the Index in the impact story to the right. [Learn more and access the Index here.](#)

On the OFSA website, you will find a **public data catalog** of information specific to food security, public health, chronic disease, and demographic and statistical data. Also, our **data chart book** organizes relevant New Jersey-focused data in a colorful and visual collection that is understandable without a background in research or statistics. Find both resources [here](#).

Impact Through Data: Food Insecurity Index Successes

Before the launch of the **NJ Statewide Food Insecurity Index**, the **Tri-County Food Insecurity Index** provided data from Mercer, Middlesex, and Somerset counties. Here's how it was used to help guide local strategy and drive impactful results.

"We worked with our team to overlay the **Food Insecurity Index** over our Healthy Food Access Map...

The **Middlesex County Food Insecurity Index** is a comprehensive tool for our partners to use to identify areas of highest need, where resources are currently located and at what capacity they are operating. We can identify gaps in services and plan strategically to deploy resources, develop programs and apply for funding.

Pantries in Metuchen and Edison are using the Index to look at their communities and see how the pantries can collaborate to bring resources to areas that are underserved."

-Jennifer Apostol
REPLENISH Director
Middlesex County, NJ

The **NJ Statewide Food Insecurity Index** is out now!
trentonhealthteam.org/food



About the New Jersey Office of the Food Security Advocate

OFSA is providing this content as an informational resource for those who are following proposed changes and other actions with the potential to impact food and nutrition programs and policies directly, or to indirectly impact everyday food security for individuals and families.

OFSA serves all New Jerseyans. OFSA will not recommend or endorse any advocacy actions, nor will OFSA support or oppose any legislation. Similarly, OFSA does not comment on legislation. It is up to each organization, coalition, neighborhood, community and industry/sector and their partners to determine what, if any, actions or positions to take.

The sources presented are not an exhaustive list or a full representation of perspectives on the topic. It is vital to consider this compilation not in a vacuum, but together with your existing practices and preferences for following news and legislative updates. To view previous issues on the OFSA website, [click here](#). Please allow a few days' time for the OFSA website to be updated with a copy of this issue.