

POLICY BRIEF: IMPACT OF THE ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ON WIC

Both Chambers of Congress are poised for final votes on the One Big Beautiful Bill (OB BB)¹ budget reconciliation package. As drafted, the bill contains deep cuts to spending on human needs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid, largely through shifting costs to states.²⁻³ Although the bill does not include targeted cuts to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), its policies would indirectly impact WIC through a mechanism called adjunctive eligibility.

ADJUNCTIVE ELIGIBILITY allows families to qualify for WIC by providing proof of participation in other income-tested government programs, such as Medicaid and SNAP. This process streamlines eligibility, removing red tape for families and program administrators.

Due to this connection, policies that limit Medicaid or SNAP eligibility would indirectly affect WIC, requiring families to provide alternative proof of income. This added administrative burden could discourage families in need from accessing WIC's valuable services.

We estimate that 8,252,425 pregnant women, postpartum women, infants, and children are adjunctively eligible for WIC in a given month in 2025 due to their participation in Medicaid or SNAP and could be impacted by the policies in the OB BB. Of those, 3,076,968 women and children would lose their income eligibility for WIC entirely should they lose access to Medicaid.⁴

Program Participation	Participant Category	Total Number of Enrolled Individuals, 2025 (Estimated)
Total Number of Individuals Adjunctively Income Eligible for WIC via SNAP or Medicaid	Total	8,252,425
	Infants	1,286,878
	Children, 1-4	5,386,302
	Pregnant Women	696,682
	Postpartum Women	882,564

As members of Congress prepare for final votes on OBBB, the National WIC Association urges consideration of the interconnectedness of programs like Medicaid, SNAP, and WIC. Making access to WIC more difficult means fewer families will have access to WIC's life-changing benefits, including reduced infant mortality risk, better birth outcomes, improved academic performance, and better nutritional status for young children.



¹ U.S. House of Representatives. (2025). H.R. 1: One Big Beautiful Bill Act (119th Cong.). Retrieved June 30, 2025, from Politico, Ways and Means Committee Document (2024). Available online: <https://www.politico.com/f/?id=00000194-74a8-d40a-ab9e-7fbc70940000>.

² Bergh, K., Rosenbaum, D., & Tharpe, W. (2025). House Reconciliation Bill proposes deepest SNAP cut in history, would take food assistance away from millions of Low-Income families. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/house-reconciliation-bill-proposes-deepest-snap-cut-in-history-would-take>

³ By the Numbers: House Bill Takes Health Coverage Away From Millions of People and Raises Families' Health Care Costs. (2025). Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/by-the-numbers-house-bill-takes-health-coverage-away-from-millions-of-people-and>

⁴ Analysis provided by Westat