

Budget Reconciliation

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What's Happening in Congress and Why It Matters to You

- Right now, Senate leaders in Congress are trying to pass a budget that could make the biggest cuts in history to healthcare, food assistance, and education programs that help millions of working families, including Latinos. This budget is moving through a special process called "budget reconciliation," which allows Congress to pass major changes quickly and without bipartisan support.
- **Why should you care?** These cuts could take away your family's healthcare, make it harder to put food on the table, and put college out of reach for many students. Instead of helping working families, this budget proposal would gut the programs that serve them and use the money to finance tax breaks for giant corporations and funding mass deportations.
- **When will this happen?** Congress is moving fast. The House has already passed its version of the budget, and the Senate could vote as early as this week. After that, the budget will go back to the House for final approval. This budget bill sets the dollar targets for more detailed laws that make the actual cuts, but the dollar targets are binding. Even setting a floor of cuts, which Senate Republicans are proposing, would open the door to gutting critical programs that working families depend on. Because Republicans are using a special process that avoids the usual 60-vote requirement in the Senate, they can push these cuts through with a simple majority.
- Latino voters are watching this budget debate closely. 60% say the country is going in the wrong direction.

How This Budget Hurts You and Your Community

Cuts to Healthcare — Losing Coverage and Higher Costs

- This budget could slash at least **\$880 billion** from healthcare programs, including Medicaid, which covers **more than 70 million people**, including children, seniors and working families.
- 20 million Latinos rely on Medicaid — including half of all Latino children.
- **If you or your loved ones rely on Medicaid**, you could lose coverage, leading to higher medical bills, more medical debt and worse health outcomes.
- Cuts to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) could cause **5 million people** to lose health insurance, including many Latinos who buy their own plans. Families who keep their coverage could see their premiums increase by an average of **\$1,200 per year**.
- [UnidosUS polling](#) found that **58% of Latino voters oppose major budget cuts to Medicaid**, and 64% reject plans to slash the Medicaid workforce. Health care ranks as the fourth top concern for Latino voters.

Cuts to Food Assistance — Making it Harder to Afford Groceries

- The budget could lead to **\$290 billion in cuts** to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), America's largest anti-hunger program, and other food programs.
- **SNAP assists 10 million Latinos**, including 5 million children. The average daily benefit is just \$6.20 per day.
- **One in eight Latino adults** has already gone into debt to afford food, and nearly two in five Latinos do not have enough food to eat. These budget cuts would deepen hunger and damage families' financial stability in Hispanic communities nationwide.
- UnidosUS polling found that the cost of food and basic living expenses ranked the highest among Latino voter priorities, and that **62% oppose cutting SNAP**.

Threats to Education — Making College Unaffordable

- The budget could cut **\$330 billion** from education and job training programs, which could include Pell Grants, which help low-income students pay for college.
- **If you or your child is hoping to go to college**, these cuts could make tuition unaffordable, forcing students to take on more debt or abandon their hopes for a better future through education altogether.

Funding Mass Deportations Instead of Helping Families

- The budget increases spending on mass deportations, targeting **8.1 million undocumented workers** — many of whom have lived in the U.S. for decades and contribute to the economy in a variety of ways.
- **If you or someone you know is undocumented or part of a mixed-status family**, this budget threatens your stability and safety.
- Deporting millions of workers could reduce our GDP by **2.6%** and over 10 years, it could cause food and home prices to rise due to labor shortages.
- Deportations could cost \$967.9 billion over ten years while eliminating \$100 billion in annual tax revenue.
- Nearly half (49%) of Latino voters feel that the Trump administration's deportation policies put them, their family and/or friends at risk.
- 60% disapprove the administration's actions of deporting undocumented immigrants from the U.S. without court hearings.

Worsens Economic Mobility and Increases Inequality

- While slashing programs that help working families, this budget prioritizes tax breaks for wealthy individuals and corporations.
- It fails to enhance the Child Tax Credit, harming U.S. citizen children in mixed-status families. The proposed changes would deny the CTC to millions of eligible children simply because of their parents' immigration status.
- Latino voters are frustrated and worried, particularly when it comes to the economy

- 60% of Latino voters believe President Trump and congressional Republicans are not focusing enough attention on lowering the cost of everyday necessities.

Bad Policy and Bad Politics

- 63% of Latino voters hold an unfavorable view of President Trump, and 59% disapprove of the job he's doing.
- 60% hold an unfavorable view of Republicans in Congress, and a majority want Democrats to push back harder.
- 49% of Latino voters blame Trump for rising living costs (compared to 16% who blame Biden).
- 54% say the economy is worse now than a year ago, and 50% believe it will get worse.
- 59% of Latino voters don't believe Congress is acting in the best interest of Latinos, and only 15% express strong confidence in Congress.
- Despite opposing Trump's policies, many Latino voters are also disappointed in Democrats' outreach—a warning sign that neither party can afford to take the Latino vote for granted.

What's at Stake for Families

Below are some stories and examples of families who could be affected by these budget cuts.

- [SPLC](#) (March 21, 2025): Angelica McCain, a mother from Hoover, Alabama, credits Medicaid with saving her 10-year-old daughter's life. During a routine check-up, doctors discovered a rare tumor on her daughter's ovary. Medicaid covered the surgery and ongoing care, ensuring her child received necessary medical attention without financial hardship.
- [Axios](#) (March 25, 2025): Colorado resident Curtis Wolff, who has been largely paralyzed from the neck down since 2012, relies on Medicaid for daily assistance. An attendant helps him get in and out of bed each day, enabling him to work, exercise and maintain a social life. Proposed Medicaid cuts could jeopardize this essential support, significantly impacting his independence and quality of life.
- [El Paso Matters](#) (March 17, 2025): In El Paso, Texas, the local food bank announced a reduction in distribution days from five to four per week due to unstable funding. They also announced that 20% of their food pantry partners and 20% of mobile pantries would no longer receive food from the organization. This change affects many families who rely on

these services for their daily meals, highlighting the direct consequences of decreased support for food assistance programs.

- [El Tímpano](#) (March 21, 2025): The federal government covers 99% of CalFresh, California's food assistance program for low-income households. The proposed cuts could strip up to \$30 billion from CalFresh over the next decade. One research study estimated that 1.8 million children in California could be at risk of losing benefits.
- [Worcester Telegram & Gazette](#) (March 20, 2025): Jessica Rhodes, a senior at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) studying robotics, said she is part of a Latino students in STEM group, and that Pell grants are critical to getting students into university programs such as WPI's respected robotics program. "Pell grants make up a lot of funding that allow a lot of these students, many of whom are the children of immigrants and first-generation students, and that funding is the reason they can afford to come to WPI and get a better education," Rhodes said.
- [CalMatters](#) (Jan. 22, 2025): In Kern County, CA, unannounced immigration raids targeted businesses where day laborers and field workers gather. This led to acres of orange groves remaining unpicked as workers avoided areas of enforcement, causing significant losses for farmers and impacting the local economy. The ACLU subsequently sued U.S. Border Patrol for racial profiling and violation of their 4th Amendment rights against unreasonable search and seizure.
- [Vox](#) (March 25, 2025): Immigrant women make up a large portion of the child care workforce, especially in major cities. Increased deportations and enforcement have created fear and instability among providers, leading to staffing shortages, center closures and higher costs for families. That means parents — especially working moms — are left scrambling for care or forced to leave the workforce entirely, putting additional strain on household finances.

What You Can Do

- **Share your story.** How do Medicaid, SNAP or Pell Grants help your family? Your voice matters.

- **Join community organizations** (like UnidosUS Affiliates) fighting against these cuts and advocating for a budget that puts working-class families first.

Additional Resources

- [UnidosUS 100 Day poll](#): The largest national bipartisan poll of U.S. Latino voters in 2025
- [UnidosUS Latino Voter Data Hub](#): Includes Congressional district-level data on the Latino voting-age population nationwide
- UnidosUS blog (May 15, 2025): [The Medicaid cuts proposed in budget reconciliation would be the largest in U.S. history](#)
- UnidosUS blog (May 15, 2025): [The budget reconciliation bill's cuts to SNAP would be the largest in U.S. history](#)
- [Center for American Progress](#): Estimates of average Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) reductions in federal spending and enrollment based on Republican budget proposals, by congressional district
- [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#): SNAP Community Characteristics Dashboard Congressional District Explorer