



2025 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS: KEY TRENDS & HIGHLIGHTS

This resource provides an overview of state legislative sessions in 2025, and activity related to child nutrition and economic assistance.

See the [data supplement](#) for more details on state sessions, considered legislation, and policymaker communications. Legislation and communications data were collected in Quorum and are current as of June 30, 2025.

Context

All state legislatures convened in 2025 for an average of 166 days (January - May); half have a carryover for 2025-2026

- Median session duration was 120 days (4 months)
- 10 states and DC convened for 300 or more days
- VA and UT had the shortest sessions of 45 days
- Half of states will have a 2025-2026 carryover
- 32 states budget annually; 19 biennially [[Data Supplement](#), p.4]

Nearly half of states controlled by Republicans; 11 had divided control

- 23 states were controlled by Republicans, 16 were controlled by Democrats, and 11 were divided, including AZ, KS, KY, MI, MN, NC, NV, PA, VA, VT and WI. (Nebraska's legislature is unicameral and nonpartisan.) [[Data Supplement](#), p.5]

States had relatively stable fiscal conditions in 2025, but signs of a tighter budget environment ahead

- Between 2023 and 2025, 41 states and DC increased expenditures while 19 states saw a decline in revenue. Of these, 13 states increased expenditures while at the same time decreased revenue.
- Half of states did not enact any budget management strategies (e.g., targeted cuts, layoffs, revenue increases) for 2025; however, there was a 40% uptick in the use of budget management strategies across all states in 2025 compared to 2024 (77 vs. 55).
- Most states had a relatively strong fiscal cushion in 2025 (total fund balance as a percentage of total expenditures); however, there is considerable variation in the size and composition of states' balances. [[Data Supplement](#), p.6]
- States anticipate almost flat General Fund spending in 2026 and continued slow revenue growth.
- Continued increase in states considering future budget management strategies likely in 2026 compared to 2025. [[NASBO, Fiscal Survey of States, Sp. 2025](#)]
- Cost shifting resulting from the Reconciliation Bill will put additional strain on state budgets. [[No Kid Hungry, How Reconciliation Shifts SNAP Costs to States](#)]

Trends & Highlights

Summer EBT

14 states considered 18 bills that specifically address S-EBT, all of which were funding-related

- **Note:** *This does not fully capture the complete landscape of S-EBT implementation. It only includes bills that explicitly reference S-EBT, and excludes those where S-EBT funding is embedded within broader child nutrition budget items. It also does not account for biennial state budgets that may have allocated S-EBT funding across two fiscal years. ([See Summer EBT Implementation Dashboard](#))*

Highlight

- Utah funded S-EBT implementation for the first time to start in summer 2025 [[UT H.B. 3](#)]. See the *Summer EBT Implementation Tracker* for a state-by-state breakdown.

Family Economic Mobility

Few states enacted state child tax credit bills amidst federal changes

- States considered more child tax credit bills in 2025 compared to last year, but only one passed [[UT H.B.106](#)] amidst the likely - and ultimately successful - federal expansion. (Illinois also passed a budget bill to fund a previously enacted state child tax credit expansion.)
- Read more in our summary of the federal CTC changes in H.R.1. [[Share Our Strength, H.R.1 Summary](#)]

Highlights

- Illinois state child tax credit will double in tax year 2025, providing up to \$600 per child. [[IL H.B.4951](#)] [[Economic Security Project Release](#)]
- Utah broadened its existing state child tax credit. [[UT H.B.106](#)]

SNAP & Benefits Integration

37 states considered 276 bills to expand SNAP—nearly three times more than to restrict it

- 11 states enacted 22 bills to broaden SNAP compared to 7 states that enacted 10 bills to restrict SNAP.
- NY considered the most bills to broaden SNAP (56), followed by IL (25), TX (23), HI (20), CA (14), and MA (11).
- TX considered the most bills to restrict SNAP (16), followed by IA (7), AL (5), IN (4), and AZ (4).

5 states enacted SNAP choice bills

- AR, ID, TN, TX, and UT enacted bills in 2025 to restrict the types of foods/beverages purchased with SNAP benefits.
 - Three of these (AR, ID, and UT) have already obtained the requisite federal waiver to implement the new policy.
 - (NE, IA, and IN obtained a waiver without first passing legislation.)
- Bills in two other states (AZ, KS) passed the legislature but were vetoed.
- 25 states in total have considered 47 SNAP Choice bills this year. [\[Bill Tracker\]](#) [\[USDA SNAP Choice Waiver Dashboard\]](#)

16 states considered SNAP eligibility restrictions

- 16 states considered 29 bills to restrict SNAP eligibility through work requirements, income/asset limits, felony/drug-crime bans, or some other means.
- Two were enacted.
 - Idaho [\[ID H.135\]](#) will require verification of lawful presence for public benefits, including Medicaid and SNAP.
 - Iowa will impose Medicaid and SNAP work requirements [\[IA S.F.615\]](#). [\[Bill Tracker\]](#)

Highlights

- Oklahoma passed two bills to improve benefits access, one to integrate nutrition services into the state's Medicaid program, and another to explore creating a unified enrollment system for SNAP, WIC, Medicaid, and other public assistance programs. [\[OK S.B.806, OK H.B.1875\]](#)
- Colorado enacted a SNAP Restaurant Meals Program, allowing SNAP recipients to purchase prepared meals at authorized restaurants. [\[CO SB25-169\]](#)
- Arkansas established a Healthy Food Retailer Program to provide financial incentives to food outlets in underserved communities that sell healthy food and accept SNAP and WIC. [\[AR H.B.1965\]](#)

School Meals

Two states enacted restrictions on school meal nutrition standards; nine others considered

- 11 states considered 24 bills to further restrict school meal nutrition standards by prohibiting certain food types or substances.
- Two bills were enacted.
 - Texas will prohibit certain food additives from being included in free or reduced-price meals provided by school districts and open-enrollment charter schools. [[TX S.B.314](#)]
 - Louisiana will prohibit public and state-funded nonpublic schools from serving foods or beverages containing a specified list of artificial dyes, additives, and sweeteners [[LA S.B.14](#)]. [[Bill Tracker](#)]

States consider increased funding for existing School Meals for All (SM4A) programs

- Minnesota's situation is most notable, increasing FY26 (\$321.8 million) and FY27 (\$336.8 million) appropriations by roughly 50% from FY24 (\$216.8 million). [[MN H.F.5](#)]
- Massachusetts enacted a \$10 million increase (to \$180 million), and Washington, which has a modified SM4A program, enacted a \$8.6 million increase. [[MA H.4240](#)] [[WA S.B.5167](#)]
- Michigan is considering a \$30 million increase to its program (\$170 million to \$200 million). [[MI S.B.166](#)]
- Colorado enacted two bills to shore up a funding shortfall in the SM4A program contingent on two November 2025 ballot measures. [[CO S.B.25-214](#)] [[CO H.B.25-1274](#)]
- The Vermont legislature appropriated \$17.5 million for SM4A in FY26, which overcame an [initial proposal](#) by Gov. Scott to eliminate the program, though lags behind previous cost estimates (\$29 million). [[VT H.493](#)]
- ME Gov. Mills [proposed](#) an additional \$6 million in her budget for SM4A, which was excluded from the state's enacted budget, but could materialize through separate legislation. [[ME LD 577](#)]
- Some states, on the other hand, have made relatively consistent investments in the SM4A programs, such as California at ~\$1.8 billion per year.

Highlights

- Texas maintained funding to eliminate reduced price breakfast copays and approved additional funding to eliminate reduced price lunch copays. [[TX S.B.1](#)]
- New York enacted SM4A (joining CA, CO, MA, ME, MI, MN, NM, VT). [[NY S.B.S3006C](#)] [[No-Cost School Meals State Policy Landscape](#)]
- National School Breakfast Week resolutions passed in CA and NY. [[CA SCR-26](#)] [[NY K.146](#)] [[NY J.391](#)]
- Hawaii expanded no-cost school meal eligibility to 300% of the federal poverty level, becoming the fourth state (CT, NJ, OR) to increase individual eligibility beyond 185%. [[HI S.B.1300](#)] [[No-Cost School Meals State Policy Landscape](#)]
- Montana governor vetoed bill to eliminate reduced price copayments citing cost and duplication. [[MT H.B.551](#)] [[Governor's veto letter](#)]

Additional Resources

State Policy Tracking

- [No Kid Hungry Nutrition & Economic Assistance State Legislation Dashboard](#) - Real-time updates on state legislation and trends related to no-cost school meals, school breakfast, and child tax credits. Data refreshed daily from Jan-May; weekly thereafter.
- [No-Cost School Meals State Policy Landscape](#) - Highlights which states have enacted or are considering legislation to expand access to no-cost school meals, either through Healthy School Meals for All programs or by increasing individual eligibility.
- [No Kid Hungry Summer EBT Implementation Dashboard](#) - Explore how participating states, territories, and Indian tribal organizations (ITOs) have chosen to operate Summer EBT.

Impact of H.R. 1

- [Reconciliation Provisions Shifting SNAP Costs to States](#) - Outlines the sweeping cuts to SNAP in H.R.1 that will shift costs to states and impact future policy decisions.
- [Summary of Changes to the Child Tax Credit and Other Tax Provisions in H.R.1](#) - Outlines key changes to the CTC and other tax provisions that are important to families.

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