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COMMUNITY ACTION
POVERTY INSTITUTE

Research and Public Policy

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Institute Raises Awareness of HR 1 Changes to SNAP & HIP

Indianapolis, IN – HR 1, sometimes referred to as the “One Big Beautiful Bill,” made major changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP). Following a set of four focus groups with Indiana SNAP and HIP participants, the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute is releasing print and social media materials promoting awareness of these changes and creating opportunities for affected Hoosiers to share their thoughts with policymakers.

“We talked with Hoosiers from all walks of life who currently rely on SNAP and HIP to meet their basic needs, including a barber who needed a surgery that impacted his earnings, a single mom going back to school to study nursing, a parent of a child with disabilities, a new mother with a baby in the NICU, and a young man with a chronic illness that makes holding a steady job impossible. They each expressed their deep appreciation for the support these programs provide and distress at the cuts made by HR 1,” said Erin Macey, Director of the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute. “At the Institute, we are doing our part to ensure that Hoosiers have the information they need to understand the changes that are being made – and are equipped to share their views on these changes with their elected officials.”

HR 1 made significant changes to tax policies and how tax dollars are allocated, including billions in spending cuts to SNAP and HIP that are projected to significantly

reduce participation in these programs among people who need them. Institute focus groups participants expressed a number of concerns about these changes.

One focus group participant reflected, "I don't know if it's just a knee-jerk reaction, but it just feels like overall [HR 1] is trying to whittle down who can get [SNAP and HIP]. It kind of feels like they're trying to take it away, whittle down who could be eligible, make it difficult...or make it be gone - which would be great if we were moving people into a place where they didn't need the help. But...are people just going to lose this benefit, or are there things in place to help them make the changes that they need to make, to either get the benefit or not?"

Comparing [January 2026](#) and [April 2026](#) enrollments, there are already:

- 22,662 fewer Hoosiers receiving SNAP (almost double the population of Madison, Indiana)
- 39,560 fewer Hoosiers receiving HIP benefits (more than the entire population of New Albany)

These losses have occurred with only some of the HR-1-required changes in place; the Institute expects further losses as additional requirements, such as HIP work requirements and copays, are rolled out this year and next.

Focus group participants also had feedback they wanted to share with policymakers, prompting the Institute to include a QR code and action tool allowing individuals to easily share their thoughts with their elected officials.

"I would say to [policymakers]...speak to somebody who's lived it. It's sort of like any job you have. A lot of times, they put out new regulations or new policies that might look good on paper from up there at the top, but once it kind of trickles down to the people who actually do it, it doesn't really work...because they didn't really consult anybody who actually does," one focus group participant said.

The Institute's brochure on HR 1 can be found online [here](#) and social media posts [like this one](#) will be on its platforms (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X and Bluesky) over the coming weeks. Institute staff plan to distribute the information widely to social service organizations and on social media. Other organizations are encouraged to help spread the word about the changes as well.

This project was supported by the Partnership for Basic Needs.

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About the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute

The Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute engages in research and promotes public policies to help Hoosier families achieve and maintain financial well-being. We believe that when Hoosiers are financially stable, they can achieve their full potential and better contribute to their communities. The Institute is a program of the Indiana Community Action Association.