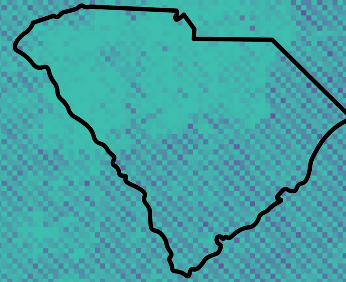




**NATIONAL  
WOMEN'S  
LAW CENTER**

Justice for Her. Justice for All.



2026 STATE FACT SHEET | SOUTH CAROLINA

## How Federal Actions Are Increasing Costs for South Carolinians

This Fourth of July doesn't just mark the United States' 250th birthday, it also marks **the one-year anniversary of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)**, a sweeping tax and budget law that paid for billionaire class tax breaks through massive cuts and eligibility changes to Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and other programs that support the health and wellbeing of women, children, and families in South Carolina and across the country.

Combined with the January 2026 expiration of improved Affordable Care Act (ACA) health insurance subsidies ([enhanced premium tax credits](#), or ePTCs), which helped millions afford health insurance on the ACA Marketplace, families in South Carolina are left struggling more than ever. Congress' inability to extend ePTCs, along with the passage of OBBBA, **raised costs on health care, food, and education for South Carolinians** — all in order to pay for new billionaire tax cuts.

To add insult to injury, the law also creates a huge financial burden on states, which are facing serious budget constraints due to federal funding cuts. South Carolina families are hurting, and they're struggling to make ends meet. [In an April 2026 survey](#), 74% of women said they are worried about affording groceries, and 71% of mothers with children under 18 worried about affording health care.

Driven by a persistent wage gap, **full-time working women in South Carolina are paid just 83 cents for every dollar earned by men**,<sup>1</sup> creating significant financial disadvantage for women at a time when families depend on women's wages even more. Rising inflation due to bad policies, tariffs, and new wars has compounded the affordability crisis.

Now more than ever, we need policies that uplift women, children, and families alongside federal leadership that doesn't undercut state budgets through targeted funding freezes and proposals that shift costs on to states.

**As a result of OBBBA, South Carolina families are seeing higher prices on basic needs and struggling to make ends meet, with women and children bearing the brunt of these cuts. Meanwhile, the state of South Carolina is left scrambling to provide basic needs for South Carolinians while maintaining a balanced budget with far less federal investment.**

## **HEALTH CARE ACCESS IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

Between July 2025 and February 2026, **19,173 adult South Carolinians lost Medicaid**,<sup>2</sup> in addition to **31,022 children**.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, **62% of adults 19+ on Medicaid in South Carolina are women**.<sup>4</sup>

Between July 2025 and January 2026, **4,067 fewer children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**<sup>5</sup>—a pivotal safety net for families who don't qualify for Medicaid.

As a result of OBBBA, **South Carolina's Medicaid program will see a \$4 billion reduction in federal funding through 2034**,<sup>6</sup> forcing the state to either shrink the program or make cuts to other programs South Carolinians rely on to make up for the loss of federal funding.

In 2024, **South Carolina relied on the federal government for 70% of its Medicaid spending**.<sup>7</sup> As OBBBA provisions take effect, this number will plummet.

From 2025 to 2026, **44,381 fewer South Carolinians enrolled in the ACA Health Insurance Marketplace**.<sup>8</sup>

As of May 2026, **at least four rural hospitals in South Carolina are at immediate risk of closing**,<sup>9</sup> in part due to Medicaid funding cuts.

## **FOOD AFFORDABILITY AND SNAP IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

Between July 2025 and February 2026, **55,304 South Carolinians lost their SNAP benefits**.<sup>10,11</sup>

In South Carolina in 2023, **39.1% of households receiving SNAP had children**<sup>12</sup> and **19.3% had a non-elderly person with a disability**.<sup>13</sup>

In order to maintain SNAP participation rates, **South Carolina will have to increase SNAP's share of the state budget by 412%**.<sup>14</sup>

## **STATE ECONOMIC IMPACTS AND AFFORDABILITY**

In South Carolina, **the average cost of infant care is \$10,474 per year**,<sup>15</sup> and **married couples spend 9% of their income** on infant care. **Single parents spend 30% of their income** on infant care.

In 2024, only **55.2% of South Carolina households earn enough to make ends meet.**<sup>16</sup>

In 2025, **19.6% of student loans in South Carolina were delinquent**<sup>17</sup>—a sign that graduates struggle to pay their loans as well as basic needs. OBBBA’s cuts to Pell grants and other assistance will make it even harder to afford higher education.

Because of related downstream economic effects for businesses that serve health providers and their staff, **South Carolina is projected to lose 13,100 jobs in 2026**<sup>18</sup> due to **ePTC expiration.**

We need solutions for women and families, and we need them now. Defunding support they rely on, ignoring the affordability crisis, and pursuing tax breaks and benefits for the billionaire class at the cost of longstanding and popular programs threaten the freedom and security of women and families. **It’s time for policies that help women and families rather than prioritize billionaires.**

## FOOTNOTES

- 1 State wage gaps calculated by National Women’s Law Center (NWLC) are based on 2024 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. National wage gap calculated by NWLC is based on 2025 Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement. Earnings are in 2024 dollars.
- 2,3 NWLC calculations based on Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, "Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility Operations and Enrollment Monthly Snapshots," <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-and-chip-eligibility-operations-and-enrollment-snapshot>.
- 4 NWLC calculations based on U.S. Census Bureau, Table B27007, Medicaid/Means-Tested Coverage by Sex and Age, 2024 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT1Y2024.B27007>.
- 5 NWLC calculations based on Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, "Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility Operations and Enrollment Monthly Snapshots," <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-and-chip-eligibility-operations-and-enrollment-snapshot>.
- 6 Rhiannon Euhus, Elizabeth Williams, Alice Burns, and Robin Rudowitz. "Allocating CBO’s Estimates of Federal Medicaid Spending Reductions across the States: Enacted Reconciliation Package | KFF." KFF. July 23, 2025. <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/allocating-cbos-estimates-of-federal-medicaid-spending-reductions-across-the-states-enacted-reconciliation-package/>.
- 7 "Federal and State Share of Medicaid Spending, FY 2024." The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/federalstate-share-ofspending/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colld%22:%22Location%22>.
- 8 "Open Enrollment Marketplace Plan Selections, 2014-2026 | KFF State Health Facts." The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. <https://www.kff.org/affordable-care-act/7-state-indicator/open-enrollment-marketplace-plan-selections/?activeTab=graph&currentTimeframe=0&startTimeframe=1&sortModel=%7B%22colld%22:%22Location%22>.
- 9 "Rural Hospitals at Risk of Closing," Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform, January 2026. [https://chqpr.org/downloads/Rural\\_Hospitals\\_at\\_Risk\\_of\\_Closing.pdf](https://chqpr.org/downloads/Rural_Hospitals_at_Risk_of_Closing.pdf).
- 10 NWLC calculations based on U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, SNAP data tables, National and/or State Level Monthly and/or Annual Data, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>.
- 11 We cannot say definitively that every person in this number had benefits that were taken away vs. the difference in enrollment
- 12,13 Mia Monkovic and Ben Ward, "Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2023," (April 2025), <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/snap-FY23-Characteristics-Report.pdf>.
- 14 Miguel Villa and Stephanie Scott, "SNAP Changes Will Upend State Budgets" September 29, 2025, <https://www.georgetownpoverty.org/issues/snap-changes-will-upend-state-budgets/>.
- 15 "Catalyzing Growth: Using Data to Change Child Care." 2025. Child Care Aware® of America. May 22, 2025. <https://www.childcareaware.org/price-landscape24/#PriceofCare>.
- 16 Stephens, H., Takeuchi, M., Haskins, G., Perry, A. M., & Parilla, J. (2026, May 27). States of affordability: A series on where and why US households struggle to make ends meet. Brookings. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/states-of-affordability-a-series-on-where-and-why-us-households-struggle-to-make-ends-meet/>
- 17 Nikhita Airi, Breno Braga, William J. Congdon, and Renee Wu. 2025. "The American Affordability Tracker: Data on Americans’ Finances and Everyday Costs." Urban Institute. September 30, 2025. <https://www.urban.org/data-tools/american-affordability-tracker>.
- 18 "Expiring ACA Premium Tax Credits Could Lead to Nearly 340,000 Jobs Lost across the U.S. In 2026." 2025. Commonwealthfund.org, October. <https://doi.org/10.26099/dhxx-qf82>.