

A woman with dark curly hair, wearing a white collared shirt, is looking down at a box of produce in a grocery store. The background is filled with various fruits and vegetables in bins. A teal box with the text 'POLICY AGENDA' is overlaid on the image.

POLICY AGENDA

MAKE LIFE AFFORDABLE FOR ALL OF US

No matter what we look like, or where we come from, we work hard for our families and want to build strong communities where all of us can be healthy and thrive. But decades of underinvestment and policy choices that failed to center the needs of women—particularly Black, Latina, Indigenous, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and other women of color, low-income women, and LGBTQIA+ people—have left deep gaps in our socioeconomic infrastructure.

Today, instead of working to close those gaps, our federal government is making them worse. The tax and budget law that Trump and congressional Republicans enacted in 2025 (H.R. 1 or “OBBBA”) [made massive cuts to Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\), and other programs](#) that women and families rely on to meet their basic needs—all to give huge tax cuts to billionaires and corporations and supercharge immigration enforcement across the country. [Now wages are stagnating](#), unemployment is climbing—[especially for Black women](#)—and costs keep rising, leaving [millions of people struggling](#) to put food on the table, pay the rent, and keep up with their bills. In a [January 2026 poll](#), 62% of adults said the country is on the wrong track when it comes to inflation and the cost of living, including 66% of women.

PEOPLE WANT POLICIES THAT MAKE THE ECONOMY WORK FOR ALL OF US, NOT JUST THE WEALTHY FEW

Polling consistently shows that economic issues remain the top concern for Americans, regardless of party affiliation. An April 2026 poll shows that across the country, [people are worried that their paychecks won't be enough](#) to afford housing, groceries, utilities, health care, and child care—and [want their elected representatives to do more](#) to bring down the cost of living, expand access to basic needs programs, boost incomes, and advance gender equity. In the face of OBBBA's cuts to programs people depend on, state policymakers' top priority must be helping families and communities by raising revenue to

protect health care and economic supports for residents and making public investments to lower costs.

Policies that will work together to make life more affordable for women, LGBTQIA+ people, and families include:

- [Raising revenue to support investments in women and families](#)
- [Increasing families' access to affordable, high-quality child care and early education](#)
- [Expanding access to comprehensive health coverage](#)
- [Raising the minimum wage](#)
- [Boosting families' incomes with refundable tax credits](#)
- Helping people afford groceries (see, e.g., [here](#) and [here](#))
- Increasing access to affordable housing (see, e.g., [here](#) and [here](#))
- Expanding and strengthening state unemployment insurance programs (see, e.g., [here](#) and [here](#))
- [Ensuring families in poverty can get help through temporary assistance for needy families \(TANF\)](#)