



## 2022 SNAC Policy Agenda

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The Safety Net Advocacy Coalition (SNAC) defends and strengthens Florida's safety net programs.

This policy agenda outlines administrative and legislative policies that SNAC will prioritize for the upcoming session. The policy agenda summarizes key policies and serves as a living document that may evolve as the safety net policy landscape in Florida evolves.

### Federal Policy Agenda

Below is federal legislation that impacts safety net programs.

- 1. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Restoration Act**

A bill [introduced by U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown](#) could achieve updates to SSI. [“Key provisions of the SSI Restoration Act together would lift 3.3 million people above the poverty line and would cut poverty among SSI beneficiaries by more than half, from 36 to 16 percent, according to the Urban Institute.”](#)

- 2. Build Back Better Act**

SNAC will examine the state level impact of provisions included in [Build Back Better legislation](#) for safety net programs and participants.

### State Policy Agenda

#### Administrative Advocacy

Administrative advocacy focuses on making changes to how safety net program policies are implemented. Changes are made by appealing to the state agencies responsible for administering safety net programs.

- 1. Summer 2021 P-EBT / School Year 2021-22 P-EBT**

[Florida applied to receive Summer P-EBT](#) funds after successful advocacy from SNAC, partners, media, and others during summer 2021. DCF announced that benefits would begin rolling out in November 2021 through the beginning of 2022.

- Related: School Year P-EBT**

Advocate for DCF to share their plan for School Year P-EBT.

## 2. SNAP Phone Applications

DCF allowed phone applications during the COVID-19 pandemic. DCF should bring back phone applications with a process that addresses language needs and provides transparency about wait time and response rates.

## 3. SNAP Pre-Release Application Program for Returning Citizens

Establish a pilot program to allow applying for SNAP while incarcerated so that benefits start upon release.

## 4. Medicaid Coverage When the Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) Ends

Medicaid cannot terminate coverage [while the PHE is in place](#), so enrollment has surged. However, the PHE will eventually end and cause many Floridians to lose coverage. Even those who are eligible for Medicaid may lose coverage if they are unable to follow redetermination requirements. DCF is responsible for creating a plan to handle redetermination and remove ineligible people from Medicaid when the PHE ends. SNAC advocates for a plan that minimizes coverage loss and supports efforts to educate consumers on their rights before and after the PHE ends.

## Legislative

Below are key bills with an active role for SNAC members to lead or support.

### 1. Removal of Lifetime SNAP/TANF Ban for Returning Citizens

Florida law prohibits returning citizens with certain drug trafficking offenses from receiving SNAP and TANF, which could provide crucial support for meeting basic needs. [Lifting the ban](#) would provide a smoother transition for returning citizens and reduce chances of reincarceration.

- [HB 6079](#) / [SB 762](#)

### 2. State Nutrition Assistance Reimbursement Program

Requires the DCF to develop and implement a nutrition assistance reimbursement program to reimburse certified community-based nonprofit organizations and nonprofit religious organizations providing certain enrollment assistance services.

- [HB 541](#) / [SB 958](#)

### 3. Medically Tailored Meals

Providing access to meals that are tailored to address medical needs of people who are managing chronic cardiac illnesses and HIV.

## Long-Term Initiatives

Long-term initiatives require multi-year strategic efforts. Progress can be achieved during the current legislative session by raising awareness among partners and community members; convincing legislators to raise the issue via future legislation and/or other means; working with state agencies to find administrative solutions; or garnering media attention on the issue.

### 1. Increase TANF Maximum Payment

TANF payments have not increased in Florida [since 1992](#). Increasing TANF payments is crucial to helping families afford the rising costs of necessities like food and housing.

## **2. Improve Safety Net Program Alignment and Reduce Churn**

Eligible Floridians lose benefits when they face barriers during the recertification process for safety net programs. Cross-program alignment and simplification of recertification policies in SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid will reduce barriers and prevent participation churn.

## **3. Expand Medicaid**

Florida needs to expand Medicaid via ballot or legislation to provide better access to affordable health care. [Health Care for Florida](#) provides direction on actions for Medicaid expansion.

## **Areas of Interest**

Areas of interest relate to safety net policy but may not have identified actions to involve SNAC at this time. Although we will not take an active role, we will monitor and keep SNAC informed when new information or strategic opportunities become available.

### **1. Medicaid Postpartum Extension**

During the 2021 session, Florida passed legislation to [extend postpartum coverage in Medicaid](#) from 60 days to 12 months. SNAC is monitoring how the state implements the extension of coverage.

### **2. Affordable Housing and Medicaid Pilot Program**

See [Agency for Health Care Administration](#)

### **3. Free Menstruation Products for High School Children**

See [Learning with Dignity Act](#)

### **4. Food Insecurity and Disordered Eating**

See research from [Duke Health Centers for Eating Disorders](#)

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