



## How will proposed federal budget cuts impact Blair, Cambria, and Somerset?

Federal lawmakers are considering unprecedented cutbacks. Many of the programs serve local community members. Here's a snapshot at how residents in the Southern Alleghenies could be impacted.

### Medicaid



**Cuts to Medicaid** – Twenty-five percent (25%) of our region uses Medicaid as their primary insurance, including seniors, individuals with disabilities, children and infants. Cuts to the program hurt our most vulnerable residents. Moreover, our region's vibrant healthcare system and largest employer could face drastic losses and potential closures if the budget proposal is enacted.

#### Medicaid use as of January 2025

- Blair County Medical Assistance – 33,714 – 28% of the population
- Cambria County Medical Assistance – 35,169 – 27% of the population
- Somerset County Medical Assistance – 15,491 – 22% of the population

### Museums & Libraries

**Institutes of Museum and Library Services** - Cuts to IMLS will mean a loss of grants and research funding for libraries and museums. Presently, the entire staff of 70 at IMLS have been placed on administrative leave. Small and rural libraries will be most affected by the loss of funding. Libraries help grow the American economy, stabilize and strengthen communities, and ensure that every child can succeed in life, yet public libraries in every town, city, and county could be impacted by the budget proposal. Cuts to the Office of Museum Services would result in a loss of \$9.3 million in grants for these cultural institutions embedded in communities, which bolster tourism.

### Emergency Shelter



**Emergency Food and Shelter** – The current delay in Emergency Food and Shelter funding means that more housing, food, and utility insecure residents will do without their basic needs being met. Regionally, more than \$133,000 was provided last year to support these essential services.

**Risk to HUD funding** – HUD has yet to deliver any of the \$3.6 billion in homelessness assistance funding awarded Jan. 17, 2025, which communities are counting on to provide rental assistance, shelter, outreach, and other services to people experiencing homelessness. Cuts to HUD staffing will undermine affordable housing across the nation. A proposed cut of approximately \$168 million to HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants program, will undermine services that prevent homelessness and provide emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing. Locally, this impacts housing stability, homelessness prevention, and domestic violence programs.

# FACT SHEET 2025

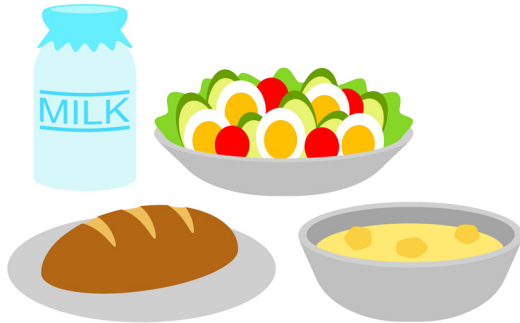


**UNITED WAY**  
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Serving Blair, Cambria, and Somerset Counties

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### Food Programs



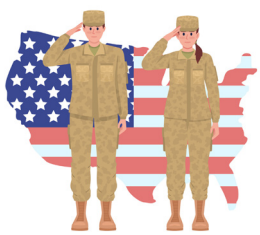
**State Food Purchase Program** – The risk to Pennsylvania’s State Food Purchase Program (SFPP) through the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) lies in potential funding cuts or changes in federal policies, which could impact the availability of USDA foods and the ability of the state to support food banks and pantries.

**Free and reduced lunch** – Across Blair, Cambria, and Somerset County 1-in-5 and 1-in-6 children face food insecurity, and even more qualify for free and reduced school breakfast and lunch. Cuts to school nutrition programs to make local food purchases not only diminishes the local economic impact, but leaves children hungry. Pennsylvania will lose \$35.9 million for child nutrition programs. Fifteen school districts across the tri-county area will no longer be eligible for school meals under the proposed budget cuts.

**SNAP** – Nearly \$363 million a month in SNAP benefits is administered across Pennsylvania. The Federal Agriculture Committee is charged with making \$230 billion in cuts, which will most likely be to SNAP.

#### SNAP use in our region as of January 2025

- Blair County – 23,483 – 20% of the population
- Cambria County – 25,906 – 20% of the population
- Somerset County – 10,922 – 15% of the population



### Veteran Programs

Veterans in Cambria County comprise 8.8% of the population (8th in the Commonwealth)

Veterans in Blair County comprise 7.2% of the population (16th in the Commonwealth)

Veterans in Somerset County comprise 9.4% of the population (18th in the Commonwealth)

**Cuts to Veteran’s Affairs**  
– Means the loss of the Veteran’s Suicide Crisis Line, cuts to research funding, and gutting VA Health Care, which serves more than 400,000 Veterans nationally.

### Education

**Cuts to the Department of Education** – Cuts will result in the loss of more than 7,000 educators and support professional jobs in the Commonwealth and jeopardize funding critical school programs that serve children in low-income and rural areas of the state, as well as children with disabilities. Nearly 14% of Pennsylvania’s public-school funding in the 2021-22 school year came from the federal government. That amounts to almost \$1 in every \$7 dollars, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. In higher education, about half of all college students receive federal loans, grants or work-study awards through the Education Department’s Office of Federal Student Aid. Pell Grants, which are awarded to students with exceptional financial need, are also provided through this office.



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### Early Intervention

**Cuts to Early Intervention** – About 1-in-6 children in the U.S. have a developmental delay or disability and the number of children receiving special education is rising. Beginning at birth, these children have a right to education and related services to support their healthy development. States depend on two interconnected sources of federal funding to uphold the right to education for children with disabilities: the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Medicaid. Even combined, IDEA and Medicaid funding do not adequately cover the cost of supporting babies and preschoolers with delays and disabilities. Slashing either of these federal supports would be catastrophic for the education of children with disabilities and deprive them of their civil rights. Children more likely to need early intervention services include premature infants, infants born at a low birth weight, twins or the birth of multiple infants, infants requiring surgery soon after birth, and infants and children involved with Child Welfare Services.

### Head Start

**Cuts to Head Start** – In rural communities, Head Start represents 22% of the child care supply. Through the continuing budget resolution, Head Start remains level-funded, which is a cut to the budget, considering inflation. The layoffs of probationary employees of the federal government affected 5,200 employees at the Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the Office of Head Start. The employees of the Office of Head Start are the liaisons between the federal government and individual Head Start providers. The elimination of Head Start would undermine economic growth and exacerbate inequalities among families with young children, especially in rural areas.



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### Learn more



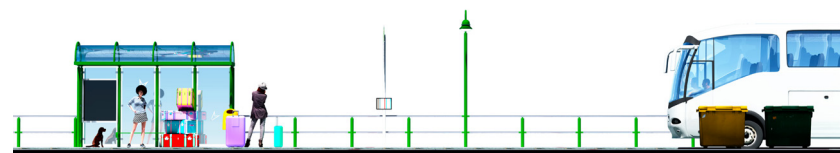
### Health/Science

**Health and Science Research** – Last year, Pennsylvania-based researchers were awarded \$1.8 billion in National Institutes of Health funding, about half of which went to independent colleges and universities. In the last fiscal year, the state received \$332 million in National Science Foundation funding, with \$186 million going to independent colleges and universities. With four institutions of higher education in our region, the cuts will hurt the economy, reduce the number of students seeking education, and set back the progress of years of research.

**Department of Health and Human Services** - Current staffing cuts of 11,000 employees at the Department of Health and Human Services include staff at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, the Division of Environmental Science and Practice, and the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program to name a few. For residents of our region, this means a weakened ability to respond to a public health crisis, fewer prescription drugs tested and made available to the public, limited cancer research, the loss of federal tobacco and smoking cessation programs, threats to food safety, no federal lead abatement programs for water systems, and the loss of funding that provides home heating assistance.

### JOBS/SOCIOECONOMIC

**Economy** - In Cambria County, 46% of the population is living on less than \$50,000 annually, 43% in Somerset County. This highlights the need for continued efforts around job training programs. There are several initiatives underway to support this in the community through Johnstown Housing Authority's On the Rise Program, through JARI, and at Goodwill; however, these programs could be in jeopardy with proposed funding cuts.



### TRANSPORTATION

**Transportation** - The Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) is funded by Medicaid, with 50% federal funding and 50% state funding. If MATP funding is reduced or the program is removed, it will have a major impact on clients, hospitals, caregivers, and others. Approximately, 3,500 trips are taken monthly by MATP-eligible clients in Cambria County. There are on average more than 3,200 MATP trips in Somerset County each month.