

2025 Budget Reconciliation Law (H.R.1)

Impacts for Southeast Asian Americans

HEALTH AND SAFETY NETS

Many Southeast Asian Americans (SEAs) rely on federal programs.



- Nearly 20% of SEAs live at or below the income threshold for Medicaid eligibility.
- The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has greatly increased health insurance for SEAs since its passage, so restrictions to ACA tax credits would increase health insurance premiums and make health care less affordable for SEAs.
- SNAP recipients: Hmong (28%), Cambodian (24%), Laotian (18%), Vietnamese (14%).
- One in four Vietnamese American children participate in the national free lunch program (disaggregated data are not available for any other SEA ethnic group). While there have been no changes to the free school lunch program, this statistic indicates that there are many SEA children in low-income families that benefit from federal programs.

The 2025 budget reconciliation law made changes to the following programs:

Supplemental Assistance Nutrition Program (SNAP)

Effective now, only the following people can get SNAP:

US citizens	Adults who are Lawful Permanent Residents (green card holders), but some may need to meet a 5-year waiting period before being eligible	Children who are Lawful Permanent Residents, with no waiting period	Cubans or Haitians with a range of current or past statuses, and people from Micronesia, Palau, or the Marshall Islands living in the U.S.
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Medicare

Effective now, only the following people can get Medicare:

US citizens	Lawful Permanent Residents	Cubans or Haitians with a range of current or past statuses, and people from Micronesia, Palau, or the Marshall Islands living in the U.S.	If you do not fall in these categories, but you're already enrolled, you can keep your coverage until January 4, 2027. After this date, you will lose coverage.
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Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Starting in October 2026, only the following people can get Medicaid or CHIP:

US citizens	Adults who are Lawful Permanent Residents and met the 5-year waiting period	Cubans or Haitians with a range of current or past statuses, and people from Micronesia, Palau, or the Marshall Islands living in the U.S.	Depending on your state , children or pregnant immigrants who are Lawfully Permanent Residents, no waiting period
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Affordable Care Act (ACA) Health Insurance Subsidies

Starting Dec. 31, 2026, only the following people can get the ACA subsidy, which helps make health insurance more affordable:

US citizens	Lawful Permanent Residents <i>However, green card holders earning less than the federal poverty level will stop being eligible after December 31, 2025.</i>	Cubans or Haitians with a range of current or past statuses, and people from Micronesia, Palau, or the Marshall Islands living in the U.S.
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