

2025 Legislative Priorities

Rooted in the Catholic Social Justice tradition, we affirm that every person is made in God's image and deserves to thrive, not just survive. Together with faith-filled advocates, partners, and communities across the country, we are demanding federal policies that reflect our dignity, protect our rights, and build an economy for all.

To accomplish this goal, NETWORK has identified five priority issues in the upcoming Budget Reconciliation bills. Across these issues, your leadership is required to protect the programs our communities need to thrive.

1. Protect SNAP: Our Most Essential Tool to Prevent Hunger

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has served for decades as our nation's most essential tool to prevent hunger. SNAP is also central to the struggle to lift people out of poverty. But even with SNAP in place since 1964, 34 million of our neighbors in the U.S. still face hunger, including nine million children. **These numbers are inexcusable and immoral.**



Throughout the budget reconciliation process and the Farm Bill reauthorization this year, our priorities are clear:

- **First and foremost, Congress must hold the line against any cuts to current SNAP benefit levels and against any new and more punishing work-reporting barriers.**
- **Second, Congress must remove the Farm Bill's unjustifiable lifetime ban on SNAP benefits for individuals convicted of drug felonies.**

2. Ensure Consumers Can Choose Clean Energy

Investments in new clean energy solutions are making our homes, neighborhoods, and planet cleaner, safer, and more sustainable for the future.

- **Congress must maintain and expand current climate initiatives to ensure continued progress in reducing emissions, creating green jobs, and building a resilient, sustainable economy for all.**
- **Congress must make the IRA Clean Energy Tax Credits permanent to ensure billions of dollars in public and private investment and bring manufacturing jobs back to the U.S., all while transitioning away from fossil fuels.**

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3. Protect Medicaid and the ACA from Cuts that Kill

Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) provide affordable healthcare coverage for millions of Americans. Access to quality health care is a fundamental human right that should be available to all, with no exceptions.

- Congress must block efforts to cut Medicaid funding or change its structure through block grants, per capita spending caps, or punishing work-reporting barriers.
- Congress must make the ACA premium tax credits permanent so we can all afford health insurance.

4. Ensure the Wealthy and Corporations Pay Their Fair Share

NETWORK supports a just federal tax system that taxes wealth like it taxes work, encourages big corporations to produce in the U.S. instead of shifting profits and jobs overseas, and requires billionaires to fairly contribute to the nation that made their success possible. The 2017 Trump-GOP tax cuts overwhelmingly benefited ultra-wealthy individuals and corporations at the expense of our communities.

- Congress must hold the line against extending further tax breaks for the ultra-wealthy and corporations.
- Congress must expand the Child Tax Credit (CTC) for the security of our families. A strong, fully refundable, monthly CTC will help children flourish and develop into healthy members of our society.



"Working for a just distribution of the fruits of the Earth and human labor is not mere philanthropy. It is a moral obligation."

—Pope Francis, Address to the World Meeting of Popular Movements, July 2015

5. Keep Families Together and Protect People Seeking Asylum

The Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching are clear: we are called to love our neighbor and welcome the immigrant. For decades, Catholics and people of faith across the country have called for a just reform of our nation's immigration system and the protection of people fleeing persecution. Yet, the Trump administration plans to criminalize immigrants and engage in the mass separation of immigrant families—causing devastating hardship and emotional distress in our communities. Family unity must be the cornerstone of the U.S. immigration system. To this end:

- Congress must prevent the criminalization of immigration and immigrants.
- Congress must expand legal pathways to citizenship, honoring the significant contributions of immigrants and their legitimate reasons for migrating—including to seek safety from violence for their families.
- Congress must ensure humanitarian protections and due process for all immigrants. From asylum and Temporary Protected Status to refugee resettlement programs and protections for victims of trafficking, strong humanitarian protections make our communities safer for everyone.