



Today's Webinar:

# SNAP Changes in the Federal Reconciliation Bill: Partners in Accuracy

Friday, September 12, 2025 at 12:00pm

Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of state and local health and human services policy, advocacy, and provider organizations that promotes health and human service budget and policy solutions so that **all** Ohioans live better lives.

Our coalition believes in investing in our state's most valuable resource—our people—to ensure that they are safe, healthy, and can access pathways to prosperity for themselves and their families.

Strong Communities.

# Housekeeping

- This webinar is being recorded in full
- Recording and slides will be sent out to all registrants by this afternoon
  - Recording and slides will also be available at <a href="https://www.advocatesforohio.org/webinars">https://www.advocatesforohio.org/webinars</a>
- Have a question? Submit in the Q&A box. Questions will be answered at the end of the webinar.



## **Today's Speakers**



**Rachel Cahill** 

Visiting Fellow

Center for Community Solutions



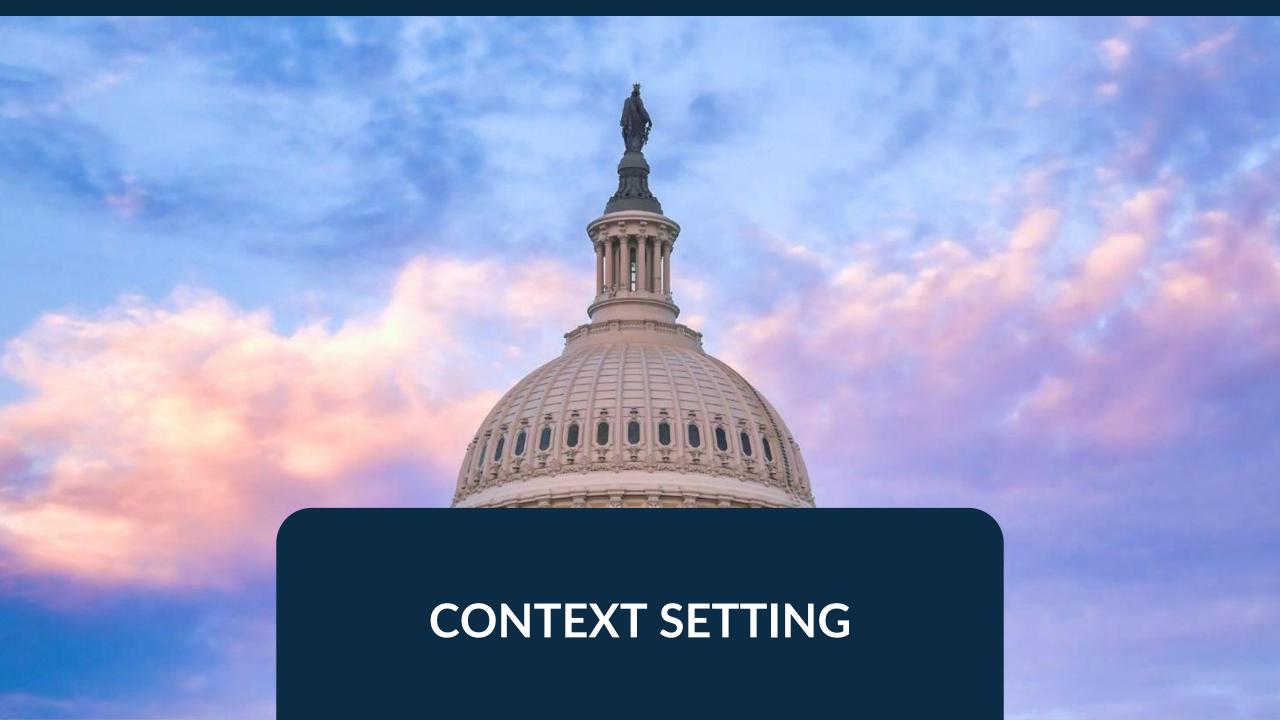
**Betsy Suver** 

Deputy Director, Office of Family Assistance,
Ohio Department Job and Family Services

## Today's Agenda

- 1. Context Setting
- 2. What are SNAP Payment Error Rates?
- 3. Opportunities to Reduce Payment Errors in Ohio
- 4. Community Organizations as "Partners in Accuracy"
- 5. Question Time

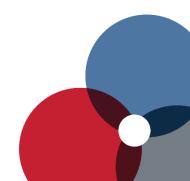




# **Historical Context on SNAP Funding**

Throughout the program's history, the federal government has paid 100% of SNAP benefits

- Historically, there has been a **50/50 federal-state split** for SNAP administrative costs
- In Ohio, implementation responsibility has been **delegated to counties**, along with a share of administrative costs

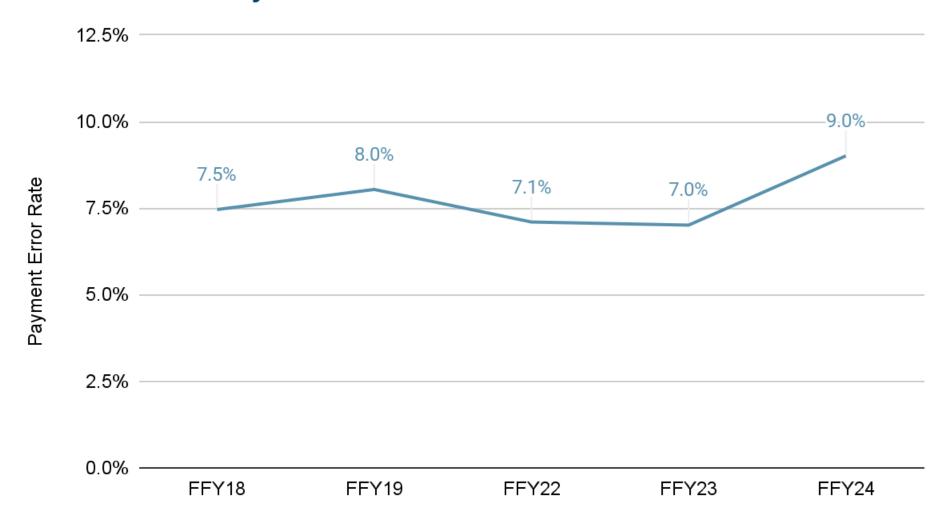


### Historical Role of Payment Error Rate (PER) in SNAP

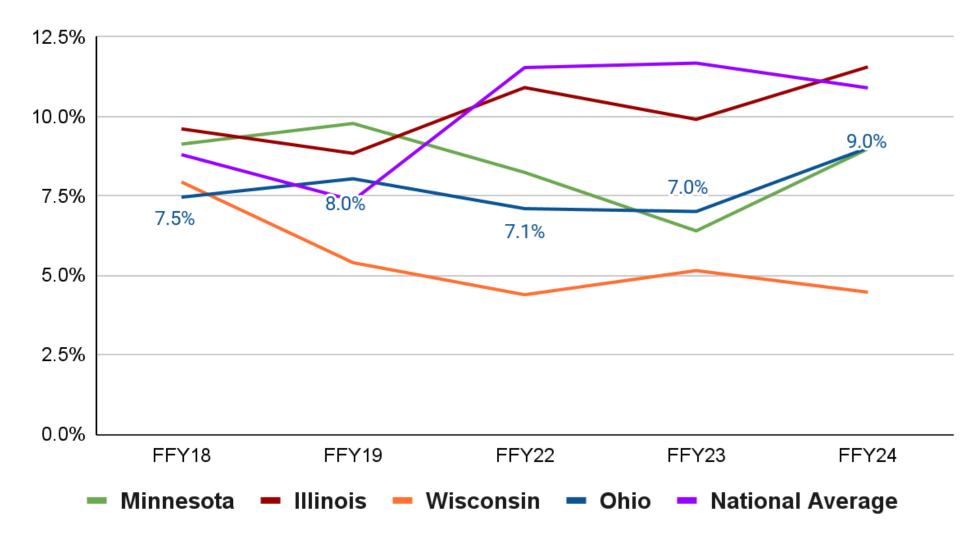
- Payment Error Rates have always been part of SNAP's accountability system as a federally-funded program
- States with payment error rates exceeding the national average get a "corrective action plan" and must pay financial penalty after 2 consecutive years



### **Ohio's SNAP Payment Error Rate Over Time**



#### **Ohio vs. Peer States in the Midwest**





### Impacts of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act on Ohio's SNAP Program

#### **Greater Cost-share to the State:**



- Administrative costs will increase by 25%.
- Based on the Quality Control Payment (QC) error rate, the State will have to contribute to the cost of benefits. Currently, 100% of SNAP benefits are federally funded.



#### **Greater Cost-share to the State**

#### **Administrative Costs**

October 1, 2026



The forecasted loss of federal funds for the state is:

\$19,705,373 per year.

The forecasted loss of federal funds for the counties is:

\$47,354,097 per year.

We have 50/50 admin funding until October 1, 2026



October 1, 2027



The state share of benefits based on FFY 2024 QC error rate (9.01%) was:

\$321 M per year.



If the QC Error Rate is	Then the State would pay this % of benefits	Estimated Annual cost
< 6%	-	-
6-7.99%	5%	\$161 M
8-9.99%	10%	\$321 M
10%	15%	\$482 M

#### **Total Costs**



To operate the program beginning in FFY 2028, the state will need:

est. \$388,059,470 net new General Revenue Funds per year.



### **Our Focus on Payment Accuracy**

#### **BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2027:**

Instead of federal funding covering 100% of the **cost of benefits**, a state will share some portion of the cost of benefits **if its error rate is at or greater than 6%**. Based on a sliding scale, the state share of SNAP benefits will be between 5% and 15% of all benefits.

Ohio's **FFY 2024** QC error rate was...





...which will result in the state paying \$321M in benefits costs.

The QC year for FFY26 begins on October 1, 2025. We must prioritize payment accuracy to keep Ohio's QC error rate below 6% because it affects us all.

#### **How Does ODJFS Determine QC?**



Every month, ODJFS QC Reviewers review on average 85 randomly selected cases per month.

- Any household overpayment or underpayment greater than \$57 is considered an issuance error.
- → These errors are predominantly a result from county and client error, not as a result of normal system processing.
- The federal rules do not distinguish between an error caused by a county worker or one caused by the household.
- Generally, the error rate does not include fraud.



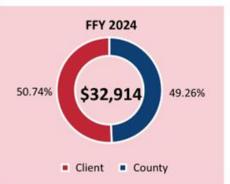
ODJFS QC Reviewers review cases from 3 months ago, which means that our knowledge of the error rate is 3 months behind.



### **Error Rates - Which errors have the greatest impact?**

From FFY 2023 – FFY 2025, the total amount issued in error for the sample taken was \$69,692.







Out of the total amount issued in error, \$43,671 came from the same five errors.



Failure to report income

(Client Error)



Household composition

(Client and County Error)



Failure to report a job

(Client and County Error)



Incorrect \$ Amount Used in Budget

(Client and County Error)



Incorrect Credit for Expenses

(County Error)

### Implementation Timeline for SNAP Benefit Cost Shifts

#### Federal Fiscal Year 2027 Begins

State/Counties only reimburse 25% of SNAP administrative costs, down from 50%. SNAP Payment Error Rate must be below 6% to avoid SNAP benefits cost share in FFY30.

**October 1, 2025** 

**October 1, 2027** 

October 1, 2026

#### Federal Fiscal Year 2026 Begins

SNAP Payment Error Rate (PER) must be below 6% to avoid SNAP benefit cost share in FFY28 and FFY29.

#### Federal Fiscal Year 2028 Begins

State/Counties pay 5-15% of SNAP benefit costs if SNAP Payment Error Rate was 6%+ in FFY26. This fiscal year's PER impacts state's cost-share in FFY31.



# Ways to Reduce Client Errors

Ideas to Explore

# With community partners, counties can:

- Improve the quality of verification documents submitted at application and renewal
- ➤ Increase the frequency of new income being reported between certification periods
- Minimize underpayments by helping households understand how verified expenses impact benefit amounts

### Return on Investment (ROI) of Community Partnerships

# Community Partners are Trusted

They have already build trust in communities, so information and advice can reach residents more quickly and effectively than some government communication.

# Community Partners are Messengers

They can be "plain language translators" for priority areas, as long as they receive regular policy and process updates from agency leaders.

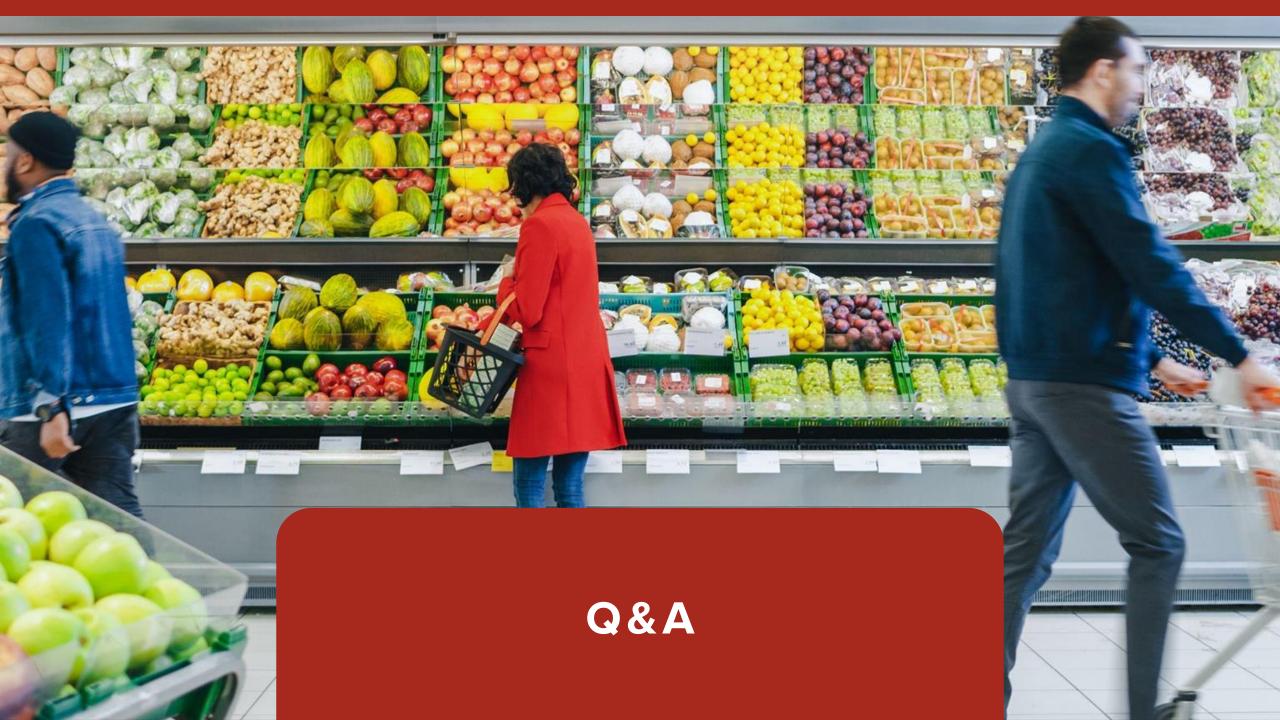
# Community Partners are Knowledgeable

High-quality application assistance can improve case accuracy and compliment state/county process changes.

# 3 Reasons to Commit to Being Partners in Accuracy

- 1. Underpayments hurt error rates just as much as overpayments.
  - Help clients follow up on reported changes.
- 2. Repaying a SNAP overpayment is painful.
  - Discourage clients from delaying new income reporting in hopes of keeping higher SNAP benefits.
- 3. New SNAP costs for state/counties could divert resources from other critical needs.
  - Help be part of ensuring SNAP benefits remain 100% federally funded.





# Thank you for joining!

