

October 2025



Indy Hunger Network, Today & Looking towards Tomorrow

These days cuts to federal funding are a prime topic in news reports, and one of the first questions people ask me in conversation is: “has your work been affected by the cuts?” The answer is YES. With the passage of HR1, the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”, our work to ensure that everyone in the Greater Indianapolis areas has access to nutritious food got much harder.

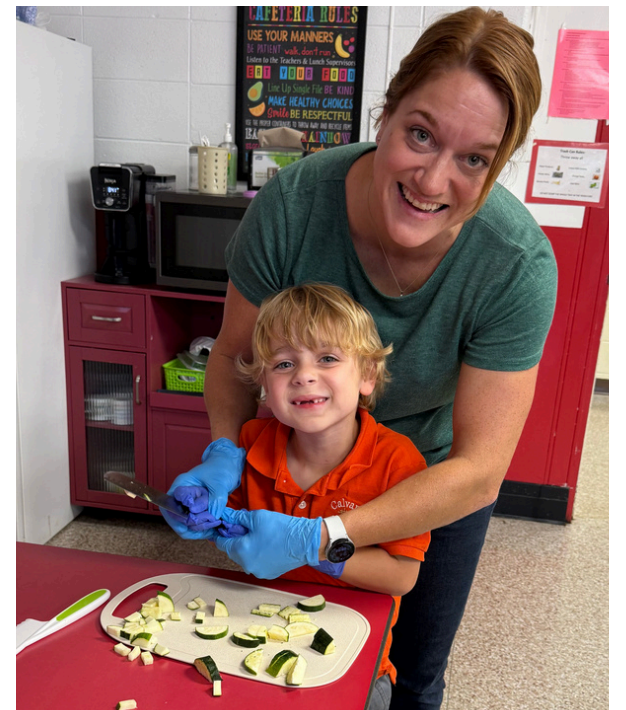
For the past eight years, Indy Hunger Network has been a recipient of funds for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education or SNAP-Ed. SNAP-Ed has been administered by the USDA since 1992, providing funds to organizations that provide nutrition education and supports for people with low income. Despite documented success of SNAP-Ed funded programs across the country, SNAP-Ed funding was eliminated in HR1, and the program is now being phased out. No new funds will be allocated for SNAP-Ed work in the current fiscal year, which has left organizations like ours scrambling to find alternative sources of funding for several of our key programs, including Cooking Matters, our Healthy Nudges work with food pantries, and Community Compass. These programs helped over 55,000 Hoosiers in 2024 alone, and the loss of these resources will have a real impact on our community.

The other major impact of HR1 is the passage of substantial cuts to SNAP, which will be implemented over the next two years. Some of these changes are already starting, including the implementation of work requirements for veterans, young adults who have recently aged out of foster care, family caregivers, people experiencing homelessness, and people aged 55-64, who were previously exempt from work requirements. As more and more of these new SNAP policies and restrictions are rolled out, we will see a decline in the number of people who are able to access SNAP benefits, and that will put a strain on the already heavily stressed hunger relief system. Federal nutrition programs provide about 85% of the meals for people using food assistance in Marion County, and the food pantries and meal programs won't be able to fill the gap that will come from cuts to SNAP and other programs.

Now, more than ever, Indy Hunger Network could use your donation dollars to support our work. We want to continue our program offerings at a time when food insecurity is increasing and federal funding is disappearing. Your financial support will help us rise to meet the need and continue to support both our partner organizations and people seeking food assistance in our community.

Please consider making a donation to IHN today [**HERE**](#).

Summer & Fall with IHN's Cooking Matters Program



IHN's Cooking Matters Program has been serving up essential skills, healthy groceries, and yummy recipes all summer long & now they are ready for more classes this fall! Photos from IHN CM classes at International District Community Center, Harrison Hill Elementary, and Calvary Lutheran School.

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**ADVOCACY
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What Does the Government Shutdown Mean for Food Assistance Programs?

On October 1, 2025 the United States government officially ran out of allocated money. The fiscal year for the US government is from October through September. There have been shutdowns in the past, but not at the beginning of a fiscal year. The shutdown continues, as of this writing, and we will start seeing government programs not receive their funding soon. Starting with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, or WIC. According to state sources, mothers and babies will continue to receive funds, at least in Indiana. Our understanding is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP is fully funded through the end of October. However, if the shutdown continues these payments might be reduced or cut in November. Again, according to our state source, this has never happened before because the state has supplemented payments until they were reimbursed after the shutdown ended.

On September 30, 2025 at midnight the SNAP-Ed program officially sundowned. The SNAP-Ed program provided Indy Hunger Network with almost half of its an annual budget for the last few years, which included about half of our staffing costs. Indy Hunger Network continues working tirelessly to replace these funds so we can continue nutrition education across Indianapolis and the surrounding counties.

Also beginning soon are the work requirement changes for SNAP benefits from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. This is just the beginning of changes coming to not only the SNAP program, but also the Medicaid and Medicare programs. Please see the chart (middle button, below) created by the Indiana Justice Project for the dates when these changes will occur.

[INDIANA JUSTICE PROJECT ON FOOD & JUSTICE](#)

[SNAP 2025 BUDGET RECONCILIATION IMPACT ON INDIANA](#)

[INDY HUNGER NETWORK IN THE NEWS](#)

Community Compass

is IHN's free digital tool that helps Hoosiers find food assistance quickly and easily. We're excited to share a new feature! Users can now create an account to "favorite" their go-to resources and receive notifications when those listings are updated. If you'd like a quick refresher on how to use the app, check out our short tutorial video on Vimeo. For those who prefer not to sign up, the app can still be used as a guest by selecting "Continue without an account." Learn more at indyhunger.org/compass or www.communitycompass.app



Members of the Indy Hunger Network team at our recent Partner Convening. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this day of learning & connecting!

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

Food Pantry Network – Info-to-Know

- Applications for the 2025 Food Pantry Grant Program are officially closed. Thank you for applying!
- **ATTENTION:** For all recipients of 2024 Food Pantry Grants, your final reports need to be submitted no later than 12 months from the date your grants were awarded.
- **Tuesday, November 18** – IHN Healthy Nudges Cohort Celebration. To receive event details, reach out to angel@indyhunger.org.

Food Resource Services Hub (FRSH)

FRSH Navigators help clients explore opportunities for food assistance – including applying for SNAP or WIC benefits, finding nearby pantries and meal programs, and emergency food options – through phone calls, video calls, and in-person meetings. Make appointments [HERE](#). In-person FRSH appointments are held at the IHN Office and other sites across the city.

State Advocacy Training Webinar

Thursday, November 20, at 12:00 noon, join Bread for the World and Indy Hunger Network for an empowering webinar on how the Indiana state legislature operates and how you can make a difference.

In just under an hour, you will:

- Learn the key differences between the federal the state lawmaking process.
- Explore 2026 proposed bills that impact hunger in Indiana.
- Take meaningful action to advocate for policies that fight food insecurity.

Your voice matters. Sign up [HERE](#) and be part of the movement for a hunger-free Indiana.

IHN Cooking Matters Class @ IHN Office

Wednesday, December 3, 2:30–3:30 PM – Cooking Matters class at the IHN office, 32 E. 32nd Street Indianapolis, IN 46205.

Register for this free nutrition-based cooking class [HERE](#) by **November 23, 11:59 PM**.

WORKING TOGETHER TO END HUNGER

Our mission is to address systemic hunger issues and eliminate disparities in the Greater Indianapolis hunger relief system through collaboration on programs, advocacy, and research.

Help further Indy Hunger Network's mission to ensure that anyone who is hungry can access the food they need by donating [HERE](#).