

House Agriculture Committee

Exploring State Options in SNAP

9 September 2025

Highlights: This hearing focused on state-level administration, fraud prevention, technology use, and impacts of recent legislation—particularly the [One Big Beautiful Bill Act \(H.R. 1\)](#).

Witnesses:

- [Chloe Green](#), Manager, Food and Nutrition Services, American Public Human Services Association
- [Joy L. Bivens](#), Deputy County Administrator, Health and Human Services; on behalf of the National Association of Counties
- [Korin Schmidt](#), Director, Wyoming Department of Family Services

Key Points:

- Wyoming Department of Family Services Director Korin Schmidt explained that the state regularly consults with others to learn from their experiences with policy options and waivers.
 - For example, Wyoming chose to accept client statements regarding resources but not assets after learning that accepting asset statements led to more errors in other states.
- Fraud Prevention Tools
 - Wyoming implemented a front-end eligibility (FEE) tool to detect fraud before benefits are issued.
 - This tool was introduced after attending a welfare fraud conference and cost approximately \$750,000 to launch, with ongoing costs estimated at \$200,000 per year. The program has helped Wyoming avoid nearly \$1 million in fraudulent benefit issuances over three years.
- Technology and Artificial Intelligence in SNAP
 - Witnesses Green and Bivens discussed the limitations of using automation and artificial intelligence in SNAP administration.
 - They noted that outdated systems, budget constraints, and slow USDA approval processes hinder innovation. Additionally, USDA classifies bots as non-merit staff, which restricts their use in SNAP casework.
- Impact of H.R. 1 on States and Counties
 - The One Big Beautiful Bill Act increased the administrative cost share for SNAP from 50 to 75 percent, placing a heavier financial burden on counties.
 - This change has impacts like limiting states' ability upgrade to chip-enabled EBT cards, which are needed to prevent fraud such as card skimming. Previously, USDA reimbursed stolen benefits, but H.R. 1 removed that authority. As a result, families now have no recourse and must wait until the next benefit cycle.
- Staffing and Quality Control

- Wyoming maintains a low error rate with only 12 staff members in its SNAP quality control and fraud protection unit. This success is attributed to a robust continuous quality improvement process and regular communication between field staff and program managers.
- County-Level Administration
 - County-administered SNAP programs offer greater accessibility by embedding services within communities.
 - Counties report that they often bear the financial burden of state-level decisions, such as seeking waivers or expanding eligibility, without having a seat at the decision-making table.