

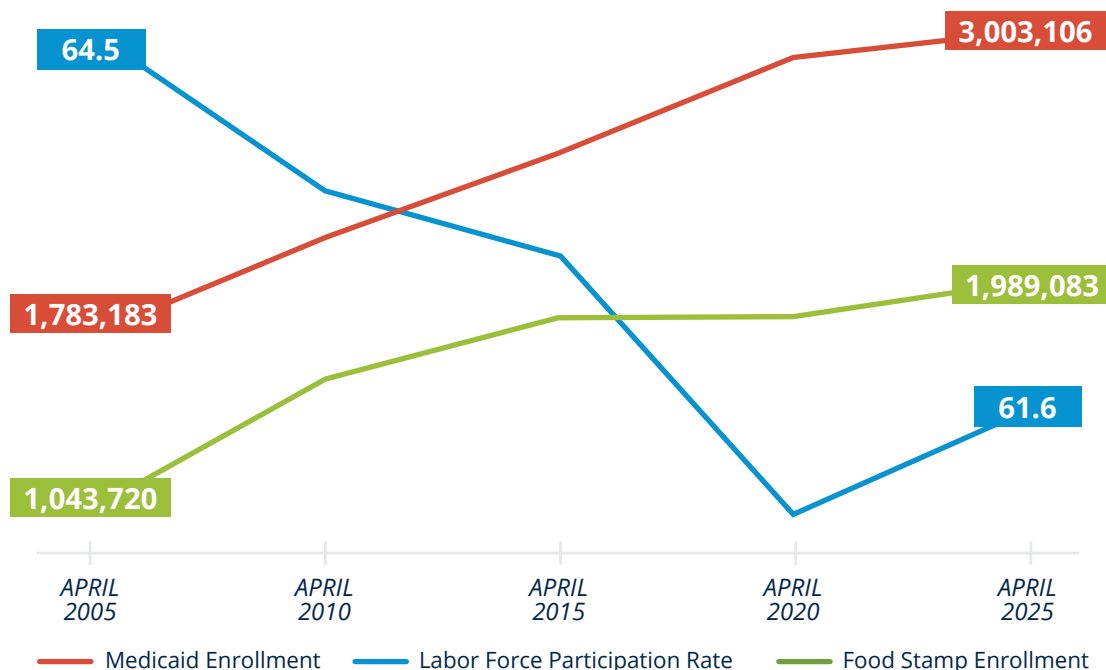


PENNSYLVANIA'S WELFARE OVERHAUL: CLOSING LOOPHOLES AND PROTECTING THE TRULY NEEDY

Pennsylvania's welfare system is in crisis. Skyrocketing enrollment, rising costs, and lax oversight are draining resources from those who need them most. It's time to reform the Keystone State's welfare programs to protect resources for the truly needy, stop fraud, and empower independence for able-bodied adults.

THE BIG PROBLEMS

Welfare enrollment is skyrocketing while work has plummeted



Massive program waste and fraud

Billions of dollars are wasted on ineligible enrollments and improper spending instead of going to help the truly needy.

★ IMPROPER PAYMENT RATES:

14% Medicaid **17%** Food Stamps



★ UNVERIFIED, SELF-ATTESTED INFORMATION

is used to enroll people who are not actually eligible for Medicaid.

★ WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR ABLE-BODIED ADULTS

on food stamps are being waived, even in areas with low unemployment.

SOLUTIONS FOR RESTORING PROGRAM INTEGRITY IN PENNSYLVANIA'S WELFARE PROGRAMS

- 1 STOP ACCEPTING UNVERIFIED INFORMATION:** Medicaid applications should include proof of residency and household status to verify eligibility. Stricter documentation rules will help cut down on fraud and unqualified enrollments.
- 2 ENFORCE REGULAR DATA CROSS-CHECKS:** Pennsylvania state agencies should increase the frequency of cross-checking state, federal, and private databases for residency, employment, and death records.
- 3 HOLD HOSPITALS ACCOUNTABLE FOR HOSPITAL PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY (HPE) DETERMINATIONS:** Set performance standards for participating in the HPE program and disqualify non-compliant hospitals.
- 4 END BROAD-BASED CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY:** The categorical eligibility loophole is used to bypass standard income and asset tests. Closing this loophole would ensure that only households that meet food stamp eligibility thresholds are enrolled.
- 5 MONITOR EBT CARD USAGE:** Frequent use of food stamps outside Pennsylvania can signal that a recipient may no longer live here and is no longer eligible for benefits. Monitoring EBT card usage helps catch these cases and ensures that taxpayer dollars go to those who truly qualify.
- 6 HELP ABLE-BODIED ADULTS REACH SELF-SUFFICIENCY:** Community engagement through work, training, or volunteering is the pathway to self-sufficiency. Pennsylvania should stop waiving the work requirement for able-bodied adults on food stamps and apply the same to Medicaid.

The Bottom Line

Pennsylvania must reform welfare to **PROTECT** the truly needy, **STOP** fraud, and **EMPOWER** able-bodied adults to break free from dependency.