

Memorandum

TO: Children, Youth and Family Collaborative Commission

FROM: CYFCC Advocacy Group

DATE: September XX, 2025

RE: Proposed State Legislative and Budget Recommendations

KEY PRIORITY

Assess the Impact and Compensate for Loss of Medicaid and SNAP Benefit Funding Due to the H.R. 1

The federal reduction in Medicaid and SNAP benefits will deprive low income children and families of critical food and health resources. Changes to eligibility for SNAP and Medicaid will limit students' access to free school meals and other child nutrition programs such as those offered through WIC, summer and afterschool meal programs, and Head Start. More than 12,000 Alexandria residents rely on SNAP, many of whom are children.

Roughly one in every three children in the City of Alexandria were enrolled in Medicaid in 2023.¹ H.R. 1 passes the cost of health care services onto patients, requiring Virginia to charge up to \$35 per medical service for those families with incomes slightly above poverty level. Therefore, "a family of four just above the [federal poverty level](#) (an income of \$32,471.50) will be expected to pay up to \$1,624, out of pocket, for covered services that are not exempted. This provision will allow providers to deny Medicaid enrollees certain services if they are unable to pay their shared cost."²

Alexandria's Children, Youth and Families Commission urges the General Assembly to:

- Support Alexandria Mayor Alyia Gaskins' request for an expedited Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study to assess the impact of H.R. 1 on the Commonwealth of Virginia.³
- Establish new or augment existing safety-net programs to account for reduced access to health care and nutrition among Virginia's most vulnerable populations.

¹ See <https://vakids.org/h-r-1-cuts-mapping-visualizer#Projected-Total-SNAP-&-Medicaid>

² <https://vakids.org/posts/h-r-1-costly-impacts-for-young-people-and-families-across-virginia>

³ See https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/2025-08-14_%20JLARC%20Study_Virginia%20Delegation.pdf

- Allocate more state funding to cover administrative burdens and streamline state-level regulations, to ensure that children and families are not losing benefits merely due to red tape bureaucratic requirements.
- Lower SNAP error rates, thereby reducing federal penalties.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- Increase access to high-quality after school programs and extended learning opportunities that have a proven record of effectiveness that enhance academic, social, physical, and emotional development, and address opportunity gaps.
 - *The state allocated \$5 million over the last biennium to supplement the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program and award funds to community-based organizations providing out-of-school time programming to school-age children attending high-poverty, low-performing schools.
 - *We support a budget amendment requesting an annual \$2.5 million in general funds to continue supporting these programs and helping establish new programs to meet the increasing need.
 - *There are currently five CCLC grants supporting out-of-school time programs in Alexandria City Public Schools that utilize the federal funding. The statewide funding will potentially expand access by providing an additional stream for Alexandria organizations to apply to for these programs.
 - *The need for these programs significantly exceeds the current capacity. In Virginia, for every child enrolled in an out-of-school time program, there are four more on a waiting list. In Alexandria specifically, less than 35% of families reported engaging with an out-of-school time program in 2023.
- Develop new special education staffing needs estimates based on current prevailing practice and actual student need.
- Increase state funding to strengthen local support of special education programs, ensuring all children can learn to their full potential.
- Pass legislation that holds adults accountable for the secure storage of firearms. The CYFCC joins the Alexandria City Public Schools in its support for measures to ensure guns are kept unloaded, locked, and stored separately from ammunition.

LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

- Support local school division efforts to equitably apply educational opportunities for all students, regardless of race, socioeconomic, or disability status.