



OBBB+: The Next Phase

Work-Centered Welfare Reform

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OBBB+: The Next Phase (2029 Work-Centered Welfare Reform)

Executive Summary

OBBB+: The Next Phase is a comprehensive welfare reform framework designed to modernize and refocus public assistance programs around a work-centered model. It continues the structure introduced by President Trump under the OBBB initiative while introducing critical reforms in healthcare access, job training, public benefits clarity, racial equity, housing, and mental health. This policy is designed to encourage employment, reduce long-term dependency, and safeguard support for the truly vulnerable. It is a flexible, scalable plan for future administrations to evolve with economic demands and public needs.

Mission Statement

To reform welfare programs in the United States through policies that reward work, protect the vulnerable, and ensure the ethical use of public funds while expanding opportunities for education, healthcare, and employment.

Purpose Statement

The purpose of this proposal is to introduce OBBB+: The Next Phase as a legislative model for transitioning U.S. welfare support programs into a sustainable, work-linked system that adapts to modern economic conditions while preserving access for the neediest citizens.

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I. Core Principles

- **Work First, Not Forever:** Benefits are not intended as long-term income replacements for able-bodied adults. The emphasis is on personal responsibility and incentivizing economic participation.
- **Protect the Vulnerable:** The elderly, individuals with verified disabilities, and children remain protected with uninterrupted support mechanisms.
- **Opportunity Through Effort:** Recipients gain access to benefits when they actively pursue employment or education. This creates a reciprocal system of empowerment.
- **No Free Ride:** Enforces strict eligibility verification and removes pathways for recipients to remain indefinitely on welfare without engagement.

II. Healthcare Guardrails

- Retains Medicaid expansion for states but establishes a "Work-Linked Health Plan" for able-bodied adults ages 18–64.
- **Eligibility criteria:** Minimum of 20–25 hours of weekly employment, active participation in job training, or primary caregiving (children under 6 or elderly relatives).
- Recipients not meeting these conditions are offered a 12-month transitional Medicaid plan that phases out unless participation improves.
- Ensures working poor and caregivers maintain healthcare while discouraging misuse.

III. Nutrition Reform (SNAP)

- Limits SNAP eligibility to:
 - Households with children under 18.
 - Verified disabled adults.
 - Seniors aged 65 and above.
- Able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) must:
 - Work at least 20–25 hours per week, or
 - Be enrolled in approved job training programs.
- Imposes a strict 12-month limit on benefits for non-compliant ABAWDs.
- Introduces the Children's SNAP Credit: A fixed monthly benefit per eligible child, linked to school attendance and vaccination compliance.
- Encourages food security while promoting household responsibility.

IV. Job Training Access

- Offers free tuition for approved training paths:
 - Trade certifications (e.g., HVAC, plumbing).

- CDL and transportation licenses.
 - USPS and federal employment training pipelines.
 - Tech bootcamps (e.g., coding, cybersecurity).
- Participants receive monthly stipends (\$150–\$250) for food and transportation.
- Requires commitment contracts and satisfactory attendance for continued funding.
- Financially supported by a reduction in welfare fraud and a small reform in unused corporate training credits.

V. Tougher, Smarter Work Requirement System

1. Mandatory Job Match Enrollment
 - All public assistance recipients are required to register on state-managed job matching platforms.
 - Job coaches monitor individual progress and hold bi-monthly accountability meetings.
 - Failure to comply without documented cause results in benefit suspension for 30 days.
2. Timed Employment Mandate
 - 12-month grace period to enter employment, job training, or community service.
 - Non-compliance after grace period triggers phased benefit reduction.
3. Fully Subsidized Training Access
 - Guaranteed once every 5 years.
 - Recipients may choose from a pre-vetted list of programs with documented hiring rates.
4. Zero-Tolerance for Fraudulent Documentation
 - Uses secure digital job search platforms.
 - Implements random audits and strict penalties for falsified job applications or fake training sign-offs.
5. Emergency Training Voucher
 - One-time \$1,000 education voucher available per recipient every five years.
 - Must be used within 30 days to retain eligibility.

VI. Public Benefits Calculator Model

- A digital tool designed to help both recipients and caseworkers visualize eligibility and independence pathways.
- Required Inputs:
 - Household size
 - Monthly income
 - Hours worked weekly

- ZIP code (for cost of living adjustment)
 - Number of dependent children
- Outputs:
 - Benefit amounts across SNAP, Medicaid, housing, and stipend eligibility
 - Visual projection of income vs assistance decline over time
- Ensures recipients are not "punished" for working by creating a clear, phased benefit exit ramp.

VII. Mental Health Reform Integration

- Establishes on-site mental health access at job training centers and workforce agencies.
- Expands Medicaid coverage for teletherapy and virtual group counseling.
- Provides quarterly mental health screenings for long-term benefit recipients.
- Trains caseworkers to identify and refer high-risk individuals to licensed care.
- Creates community wellness grants for low-income areas to partner with mental health NGOs.

VIII. Housing and Stability Support

- Builds transitional housing in proximity to job hubs and training centers.
- Converts underutilized federal and municipal buildings into dorm-style training and living centers.
- Offers housing stipends (up to 60% of fair market rent) for individuals actively enrolled in approved job training or adult education.
- Incorporates a housing stability review in biannual benefit recertifications.

IX. Equal Access & Merit Protection

- All federal contractors must use 100% blind hiring platforms; names, photos, schools, and demographics hidden until final selection.
- Hiring decisions based solely on skills tests, work samples, and performance records, scored by trained human reviewers using standardized rubrics.
- Grants to employers who:
 - Use skills-based assessments (e.g., coding tests, trade demos, customer service simulations).
 - Publish hiring rubrics publicly for transparency.
 - Achieve 90%+ correlation between pre-hire scores and on-job performance (verified by annual audits).

- Expand talent pipelines and free training to all high-poverty ZIP codes, no racial or identity targeting.
- Annual process audits by independent reviewers to ensure no quotas, no preferences, no AI black boxes.
- Zero tolerance for identity-based advancement or algorithmic decision-making.

No AI. No DEI. No shortcuts. Just skills, effort, and earned opportunity!

X. Outcome Goals by 2035

- Reduce long-term welfare dependency by 60%.
- Raise workforce participation in low-income communities by 30%.
- Double enrollment in job training and trade certifications.
- Cut SNAP/Medicaid fraud and misuse by 50%.
- Maintain universal child access to healthcare and food assistance.
- Reduce housing insecurity and unemployment among mentally ill individuals by 40%.
- Narrow racial disparities in job placement by 50%.

XI. Conclusion

OBBB+: The Next Phase provides a realistic, enforceable, and ethical policy framework that aligns economic incentives with personal responsibility. It builds upon existing reforms while making key additions that address modern challenges in job training, racial equity, mental health, and housing. The plan evolves welfare into a ladder—one built for everyone willing to climb.