

Keeping North Carolinians Safe and Healthy

Recommendation

Invests nearly a billion dollars to expand access to behavioral health services, strengthen public safety, protect the state’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and improve access to healthy, fresh food and clean drinking water to ensure that all North Carolinians can access critical supports that enhance their safety, health, and well-being. These investments are in addition to fully funding the Medicaid rebase.

Item	Agency	FY 2026-27	
		Recurring	Nonrecurring
Improve Student Safety and Well-Being			
1 School Facilities and Repair and Renovation	LEAs		\$136,181,062
2 School Resource Officer Allotment	DPI	\$50,000,000	
3 School Health Personnel	DPI	\$32,135,000	
4 School Safety Grants	SBI		\$20,000,000
5 Behavioral Threat Assessment Mgmt. System	SBI		\$500,000
Subtotal – Improve Student Safety and Well-Being		\$82,135,000	\$156,681,062
Support Behavioral Health, Safety, and Child Welfare			
6 Reentry Health Coverage and Care	DHHS	\$9,000,000	\$80,000,000
7 Innovation Waiver Slots	DHHS	\$26,143,200	
8 Transitions to Community Living	DHHS	\$25,000,000	
9 Electronic Health Records	DHHS	\$23,086,076	
10 PATH NC	DHHS	\$8,189,825	\$10,559,128
11 Open Behavioral Health Units	DHHS	\$12,000,000	
12 Expand the State Funded Co-Response Model	DHHS	\$8,700,000	
13 Pilot Improvements to Involuntary Commitment	DHHS		\$6,000,000
14 Juvenile Justice Residential Crisis Unit	DPS	\$3,200,000	\$150,000
15 Responder Assistance Initiative-Helene First Responders	DPS	\$1,202,669	\$1,000,000
16 NC National Guard Integrated Behavioral Health	DPS	\$1,093,787	
Subtotal – Support Behavioral Health, Safety, and Child Welfare		\$117,615,557	\$97,709,128
Recruit and Retain Public Safety and Health Personnel			
17 Certified Public Safety and Law Enforcement Raise	Various	\$157,796,000	
18 Nurse and Health Care Personnel Raise	Various	\$31,818,000	
19 Basic Law Enforcement Training Bonuses	DOJ		\$15,500,000
20 NC National Guard Extension and Referral Bonuses	DPS	\$1,525,000	
21 Law Enforcement Training Staff	DPS	\$381,436	
Subtotal – Recruit and Retain Public Safety and Health Personnel		\$191,520,436	\$15,500,000

Item	Agency	FY 2026-27		
		Recurring	Nonrecurring	
Keep Families and Children Fed				
22	Universal School Breakfast at No Cost to Students	DPI	\$85,300,000	
23	State Aid to Counties	DHHS		\$63,000,000
24	SNAP Accuracy and Error Rate Reduction	DHHS	\$10,028,461	\$2,890,917
25	Sustaining the SNAP Program	DHHS	\$11,841,452	\$68,305
26	SUN Bucks	DHHS	\$10,000,000	
27	Household Feeding Programs Coordinator	DACS	\$84,288	
Subtotal – Keep Families and Children Fed			\$117,254,201	\$65,959,222
Ensure Clean and Safe Drinking Water and Food				
28	Drinking Water State Revolving Loan and Clean Water State Revolving Loan Match	DEQ		\$45,228,400
29	Viable Utility Reserve	DEQ		\$15,000,000
30	PFAS – Bernard Allen Fund	DEQ	\$200,000	\$10,000,000
31	PFAS – Operations and Lab Capacity	DEQ	\$1,659,393	\$2,613,925
32	Food and Drug Protection Positions	DACS	\$670,000	
Subtotal – Ensure Clean and Safe Drinking Water and Food			\$2,529,393	\$72,842,325
Promote Public Safety				
33	VIPER Network Sustainment	SHP	\$20,000,000	
34	Body Cameras	Various	\$4,594,358	\$2,503,135
35	Reentry Council Grants	DAC		\$5,000,000
36	Nonprofit Security Grants	DPS		\$2,000,000
37	NC Secure All Firearms Effectively (SAFE) Campaign	DPS		\$1,000,000
38	Computer Crimes Unit Expansion	SBI	\$467,469	\$53,936
39	Violence Prevention Grants	DPS	\$250,000	
40	Cold Case Capacity	SBI	\$229,922	
41	Real-Time Threat Alerting Platform	SBI		\$200,000
Subtotal – Promote Public Safety			\$25,541,749	\$10,757,071
Combat Drug Crimes and Address Substance Misuse				
42	Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (Opioid Abatement Reserve)	DAC		\$10,100,000
43	Fentanyl Control Unit	Various	\$2,432,947	\$831,218
44	Vape Shop Enforcement	DPS	\$750,755	\$606,893
Subtotal – Combat Drug Crimes and Address Substance Misuse			\$3,183,702	\$11,538,111
Total			\$539,780,038	\$430,986,919
Grand Total			\$970,766,957	

Statement of Need

- The number of acts of violent crime in schools increased from 250 to 302 from the 2023-24 school year to 2024-25, and reported possession of a controlled substance continues to rise above pre-pandemic levels, increasing 54.5% since the 2018-19 school year.
- North Carolina schools lack the health care staff to meet the national student-to-staff caseload guidelines – including counselors, nurses, social workers, and psychologists. About one-quarter of NC’s public school units (PSUs) have no school psychologist on staff. Of the 26 traditional PSUs without a school psychologist on staff, 19 have been without a school psychologist for at least three years.
- The NC Center for Safer Schools received almost \$88 million in requests for equipment, services, and training for only \$30 million available for school safety grants in the 2024-25 school year.
- Approximately 50% of people released from a correctional facility in the state identify as having a behavioral health need.¹ About 76% of people who entered Department of Adult Correction (DAC) custody in FY 2024-25 had a substance use condition requiring placement in a DAC substance use treatment program.²
- More than one in five adults and one in five children in North Carolina had a mental illness in 2023, while almost one in 19 adults had a serious mental illness.³
- North Carolina counties have been relying on fragmented, outdated, and often paper-based child welfare systems, leading to inconsistent decisions, limited oversight, and delayed access to critical information needed to keep children safe.
- More than 20,000 individuals with Intellectual or Development Disabilities (I/DD) are on the waitlist for an NC Innovations Waiver slot.⁴
- Of the youth committed to a youth development center (YDC), 97.7% have at least one mental health diagnosis. Youth committed to YDCs had an average of four distinct mental health and/or substance use disorder diagnoses, and as many as 11 in some cases.⁵
- Counties are struggling with severe DSS staffing shortages, rising caseloads, and delayed eligibility and protective-services decisions – creating inconsistent service delivery and slowing critical responses for children, families, and vulnerable adults.
- North Carolina is currently 49th in the nation for correctional officer and State Highway Patrol (SHP) trooper salaries.^{6,7}
- From 2014 to 2024, SHP trooper applications declined 75%.
- About one-third of the state’s psychiatric hospital beds are not filled due to chronic staffing shortages.⁸ Nursing salaries at state-operated health facilities are approximately 15% lower than University of North Carolina Health System nursing salaries.⁹

¹ NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory, [Correctional Program Evaluation](#).

² NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory, [Quick Facts: Adult Recidivism](#).

³ NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services, [Standard Data Points](#).

⁴ NC Division of Health Benefits, [Innovations Waitlist Dashboard](#).

⁵ NC Department of Public Safety, [Did You Know?](#)

⁶ Department of Adult Correction, [Salary Infographics COMBINED](#).

⁷ State Highway Patrol, [Fall 2025 Salaries at a Glance](#).

⁸ NC DHHS Data.

⁹ NC Division of State Operated Health Facilities.

- Summer is one of the hungriest times of year for many children. More than 60% of North Carolina’s 1.5 million public school students – about 900,000 children – lose access to a critical source of weekday nutrition when the school year ends, contributing to significantly higher summer food insecurity for households with school-age children.¹⁰
- More than 1.2 million people in North Carolina struggle with food insecurity, including roughly 394,000 children – about one in six children.¹¹ When students arrive at school hungry, they are less able to focus, less likely to stay healthy, and more likely to fall behind academically.
- Public Law No.119-21 (HR 1) enacted federal policy changes that will reduce the federal administrative cost share of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) from 50% to 25% beginning in October 2026. HR 1 also requires states to pay a portion of the benefit costs, for the first time in the history of SNAP, if SNAP payment error rates are above 6% starting in 2027, which – given recent error rates near or above 10% – could require up to \$420 million in annual state appropriations by FY 2027-28 to sustain the program.¹²
- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other unregulated chemicals are widespread and present in drinking water sources across North Carolina, including in groundwater and private drinking water wells, requiring ongoing monitoring and treatment to address health risks.¹³ Moreover, nearly 2,000 public water systems serving about 9.3 million North Carolinians must be continuously maintained, upgraded, and regulated to ensure safe drinking water.¹⁴
- The US Food and Drug Administration reduced its workforce by approximately 3,500 full-time staff in 2025, a change the Government Accountability Office reports has strained the agency’s ability to meet core oversight responsibilities, including food-safety functions – placing greater importance on maintaining state-level inspection and laboratory capacity.
- More than 210,000 first responders across the state depend on the Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) Network to communicate during emergencies and disasters, especially if phone signals fail as they did immediately after Hurricane Helene.
- A Police Executive Research Forum survey found that 94% of responding law enforcement agencies nationwide incorporate body camera footage in their training and administrative reviews.¹⁵
- Nearly 40,000 violent crimes were reported in the state in 2024.¹⁶
- From 2020 to 2024, nearly 3,400 firearm fatalities occurred in North Carolina.¹⁷
- Online child exploitation reports have grown approximately 1,000% from 2019 to 2025, according to the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI).

¹⁰ NC Department of Public Instruction, [NC SUN Meals Programs Offer Free Food, Fitness, Farm to Summer, Fun for Youth](#).

¹¹ NC Division of Health and Human Services, [State Action Plan for Nutrition Security](#).

¹² Congressional Research Service, [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) and Related Nutrition Programs in P.L. 119-21: An Overview](#).

¹³ NC Department of Environmental Quality, [Understanding PFAS](#).

¹⁴ NC Department of Environmental Quality, [DEQ PFAS Sampling Public Water Systems](#).

¹⁵ Police Executive Research Forum, [Implementing a Body-Worn Camera Program: Recommendations and Lessons Learned](#).

¹⁶ State Bureau of Investigation, [Summary Based Reporting – Index Offenses and Clearances, 2024](#).

¹⁷ Governor’s Crime Commission, [Firearm Violence Across North Carolina in Rural, Urban, and Suburban Areas](#).

- On average, eight North Carolinians died every day from fentanyl overdose in 2024.¹⁸ Additionally, according to DAC, approximately 20% to 30% of people in state prisons suffer from opioid use disorder.
- Since 2018, emergency department visits by youths under 18 years old who ingested tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) have increased sixfold.

Recommendation Detail

Improve Student Safety and Well-Being

Schools should be safe environments that enable children to learn and grow. The budget makes meaningful capital investments to ensure students and educators have safe, modern, and fully supported learning environments. It provides \$115 million from the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund to repair and renovate public school facilities across the state, addressing longstanding infrastructure needs and helping districts create healthier, more functional spaces for teaching and learning. More than \$19 million is invested in the state's residential schools for deaf and blind students, strengthening campuses that serve some of North Carolina's most vulnerable learners. And more than \$2 million supports the NC Center for the Advancement of Teaching, enabling it to expand high-quality professional learning and better equip educators to meet the needs of their students.

The Governor's Recommended Budget expands student access to mental and physical health services by funding more than 360 new positions for counselors, nurses, psychologists, and social workers — roles shown to improve attendance, behavior, academic success, and long-term outcomes.

This budget also strengthens school safety by funding 535 school resource officer (SRO) positions for middle schools and establishing statewide standards for SRO training, including behavioral health and trauma-informed practices. Together, these investments aim to create safer, healthier school environments where students are better supported, both academically and emotionally.

In the Governor's Recommended Budget, SBI will receive funding for school safety grants to strengthen security with equipment including cameras, exterior locks and fences, weapon detection, and metal detectors. The Center for Safer Schools (CFSS) at SBI will administer these grants to local districts. Start-up funding for CFSS supports a pilot behavioral threat assessment management system to better monitor and analyze local cases.

Support Behavioral Health, Safety, and Child Welfare

North Carolina faces persistent gaps in behavioral health, child welfare, and public safety systems — ranging from rising demand for treatment and reentry supports to outdated technology and inconsistent crisis response. These gaps require sustained, statewide investment to modernize infrastructure, expand access to care, and ensure vulnerable residents and frontline professionals receive the coordinated support necessary to protect health and safety.

The Governor's Recommended Budget invests funds to enable the Division of Health Benefits, the Department of Adult Correction, and the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at the

¹⁸ NC Department of Health and Human Services, [North Carolina Overdose Epidemic Data](#).

Department of Public Safety (DPS-DJJDP) to partner to provide health coverage and care to eligible incarcerated individuals who are enrolled in Medicaid within the 90-day period prior to release from a correctional facility, youth development center, or jail. Critical pre-release services, including case management, medication for opioid use disorder, and other prescription medications, will support the physical and behavioral health needs of individuals reentering into the community.

This budget also includes operation and maintenance funds for the Division of State Operated Healthcare Facilities (DSOHF) to transition from paper health records to an electronic health record system (EHR), which the division implemented in 2026 for all 13 facilities. This funding will support ongoing activities such as system maintenance, upgrades, user support, and continued integration with statewide health initiatives to ensure reliability and compliance.

To help people with serious mental illnesses or intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) receive care in their communities, Governor Stein's proposal sustains and expands Transitions to Community Living (TCL) and adds 200 Innovations Waiver slots. TCL offers supportive housing, tenancy assistance, and wraparound mental health services for individuals transitioning from or at risk of entering institutional care. The Innovations Waiver provides critical home- and community-based services so individuals with I/DD can continue living in their homes or community settings.

To strengthen and modernize North Carolina's child welfare system, Governor Stein invests funds to replace fragmented county data systems with a unified, statewide platform that improves decision-making, supports consistent safety assessments, and enhances real-time information sharing. The system strengthens oversight, streamlines documentation, and provides tools that help social workers better support children and families.

The Governor's Recommended Budget also provides funding to open two additional units in the state's psychiatric hospitals – expanding inpatient capacity, reducing the waitlist for care, and meeting higher demand driven by Iryna's Law. The budget creates new co-response teams in rural counties, which evidence has shown to de-escalate crises, reduce arrests and emergency department visits, and connect people with appropriate treatment for their behavioral health needs.¹⁹

To address inconsistent implementation of the Involuntary Commitment (IVC) process, and the lack of comprehensive data collection, this budget proposes funds to improve the IVC process, including funds to evaluate the pilots. The Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services will use the funding to enhance data collection throughout the IVC process, create a statewide data dashboard, expand appropriate telehealth use, and support standardized training for courts, law enforcement, and crisis providers. The division will also use funds to create a training program to certify NC Designated Crisis Responders as commitment examiners, increasing the number of examiners statewide.

¹⁹ US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, [Assessing the Impact of Co-Responder Team Programs: A Review of Research](#).

Youth committed to YDCs had an average of four (4.2) distinct mental health and/or substance use disorder diagnoses, and in some cases as many as 11. To better serve these youth, the DJJDP within DPS will create a residential crisis unit to serve its highest-needs juveniles.

Public safety staff also need mental health services to sustainably serve our state and manage the various traumatic encounters they experience. Following Hurricane Helene, law enforcement officers (LEOs) and telecommunicators needed assistance based on the difficult circumstances they confronted. Governor Stein's recommendations support both the Responder Assistance Initiative and NC National Guard (NCNG) Integrated Behavioral Health System to address mental health and wellness issues impacting first responders and NCNG service members.

Recruit and Retain Public Safety and Health Personnel

State and local public safety agencies face challenges recruiting and retaining officers who keep people safe. Under Governor Stein's budget, certified staff, such as correctional officers and state troopers, nurses, and health care technicians will receive a 5% salary increase, in addition to the 10% increase Governor Stein recommends for FY 2025-26 in his Critical Needs Budget. Probation and parole officers and juvenile court counselors will also receive a 3.25% raise in addition to the 6.5% increase in the Critical Needs Budget.

The Governor's Recommended Budget also rewards and prepares new officers for protecting fellow North Carolinians. This proposal establishes bonuses for NCNG referrals or extensions, as well as bonuses for newly hired Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) graduates and out-of-state BLET-certified transfers who dedicate themselves to protecting their fellow North Carolinians. The Samarca Training Academy will gain additional staff to provide BLET for incoming state agency officers.

Keep Families and Children Fed

The investments in this budget improve the access to healthy food for children, families, people with disabilities, and older adults.

Governor Stein's budget ensures every public school student can eat breakfast at no cost and children who lose access to school nutrition programs during summer have access to grocery benefits through the SUN Bucks program. Free school breakfast will close the gap for the nearly 190,000 students in non-Community Eligibility Provision schools who currently may not receive free morning meals. Research shows that universal free breakfast improves student health, learning, and behavior. The SUN Bucks program brings in more than \$125 million in summer grocery benefits for more than 1 million children, including 900,000 public school students, during the summer. The Governor's Recommended Budget provides required administrative match funds to prevent summer hunger when school meals are unavailable.

A Program Coordinator II position in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (DACCS) Food Distribution Division will strengthen the state's ability to connect families and seniors to US Department of Agriculture (USDA) nutrition programs by improving the management, ordering, and distribution of food that flows to local agencies, food banks, and community providers across North Carolina.

This budget also strengthens food and nutrition security for children, families, people with disabilities, and older adults year-round through SNAP. Investments in automation and state-level staffing will help reduce SNAP payment errors, maintain compliance with new federal requirements, and avoid costly federal penalties — all while ensuring accurate and timely delivery of SNAP benefits. Sustaining SNAP administration through increased state cost-share keeps NC FAST and state and county operations functioning as federal support declines.

Provides \$63 million to reinforce local DSS capacity by giving counties flexible resources to address severe workforce shortages and rising service demands across child welfare, adult protective services, and Food and Nutrition Services. HR 1 will place an increased burden on county social services offices. State investment helps counties hire and retain frontline staff, reduce delays in eligibility decisions and safety assessments, and maintain compliance with state and federal requirements.

Ensure Clean and Safe Drinking Water and Food

Clean and safe drinking water remains a critical concern in North Carolina due to the widespread presence of emerging contaminants like PFAS in public water systems, groundwater, and private wells, which pose ongoing risks to human health. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) findings show that contamination is not isolated, requiring continuous statewide monitoring, regulation, and remediation. These actions must be coupled with a significant investment in infrastructure upgrades to ensure systems can meet evolving water quality standards.

The proposed investments directly address these challenges by leveraging substantial federal funding through the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Loan programs to finance critical water and wastewater infrastructure projects; supporting the Viable Utility Reserve to help distressed public water systems achieve long-term financial and operational stability; expanding PFAS testing and laboratory capacity to improve detection, compliance, and remediation efforts; and strengthening the Bernard Allen Emergency Drinking Water Fund to provide immediate relief to households with contaminated private wells while also addressing contamination sources. Together, these efforts ensure more reliable, equitable access to safe drinking water, protect public health, and build long-term resilience across the state's water systems.

In addition to these water system protections, the Governor's Recommended Budget strengthens North Carolina's food-safety infrastructure by sustaining key positions within the DACS Food and Drug Protection Division. These DACS Food and Drug Protection Division positions provide essential inspection, laboratory, and compliance functions to identify food safety risks, ensure safe production and distribution practices, and maintain strong protections across North Carolina's food supply.

Promote Public Safety

Governor Stein's proposed budget strengthens North Carolina's public safety infrastructure by improving emergency communications, expanding body camera use, enhancing firearm safety initiatives, and bolstering efforts to address emerging threats such as domestic terrorism and online exploitation.

LEOs and other first responders must be able to communicate with other state and local agencies during disasters. Governor Stein's budget proposal provides stable funding for VIPER.

Body cameras for LEOs provide crucial evidence in investigations by accurately documenting interactions and improving preparedness through use of situation-based training modeled after previous encounters. Upfront purchasing costs and recurring storage costs have prevented all agencies from getting body cameras for their officers. Governor Stein's budget includes investments in the following agencies to ensure all field-based state agency LEOs have body cameras:

- DACS
- DEQ
- Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR)
- DPS
- SHP (including State Capitol Police).

Funding provided to DPS will continue the critical statewide Secure All Firearms Effectively (NC SAFE) campaign to prevent firearm fatalities. NC SAFE distributes gun locks and safes and provides violence prevention education and programming statewide. Funding for DAC Local Area Reentry Councils will provide funds for evidence-based programs for those reentering their communities following incarceration. Additionally, a competitive grant program through the Governor's Crime Commission will bolster local violence prevention efforts that apply a public health approach to address violence.

The Governor's Recommended Budget addresses additional public safety risks, such as domestic terrorists, online threats, and unidentified suspects. Grant funding for nonprofit organizations like churches and temples will boost their security against potential attacks. SBI's Computer Crimes Unit will gain more staff to triage reports of online child exploitation and restore agent capacity for proactive investigations, undercover operations, and enforcement activities. This proposal also commits funding for cold case capacity to continue these investigations and bring criminals to justice. Additionally, this budget funds a real-time threat alert platform that connects threat alerts in the news, social media posts, and other open-source data with previously reported incidents to detect and respond to early indicators of violence.

Combat Drug Crimes and Address Substance Misuse

North Carolina needs more officers and services to fight and prevent violent crime and drug use. A new Fentanyl Control Unit of prosecutors in the Department of Justice (DOJ) and drug agents and financial investigators in SBI will provide more resources and help local law enforcement to stop the flow of narcotics, investigate cases, and enhance community safety. DAC will receive funds to expand the use of medication to treat opioid use disorder to all correctional institutions following the success of regional pilot programs. The Governor's Recommended Budget also establishes one new Alcohol Law Enforcement agent in each district to increase capacity to investigate the sale and distribution of intoxicating THC at tobacco and vape shops.

Expected Impact

- Protects students and school staff by funding 535 middle school resource officer positions.
- Supports student mental and physical health by providing funding for 360 additional school health personnel, including school counselors, nurses, social workers, and psychologists.
- Protects schools by providing grants for safety equipment including weapons detection, security cameras, and exterior locks and fences.
- Improves health outcomes for individuals reentering into the community and decreases recidivism rates.
- Sustains TCL services for 4,100 individuals and provides services to 200 new individuals, in accordance with the US Department of Justice Olmstead Settlement.
- Covers operations and maintenance for DSOHF's electronic health record system, supporting patient care and safety by streamlining data collection, enhancing security, and improving continuity of care.
- Unifies all 100 county child welfare agencies into a single, modern statewide system, giving social workers real-time data and evidence-based tools that improve safety decisions and strengthen oversight.
- Creates 200 Innovation Waiver slots, decreasing the waitlist, and expanding the number of individuals with I/DD who can receive a wide range of home and community-based services, reducing the need for institutionalization.
- Enables DSOHF to open approximately 24 new psychiatric inpatient beds, expanding access to critical care for individuals with complex mental health needs.
- Increases the number of qualified commitment examiners throughout the state, decreases the number of initial IVC evaluations that take place in the emergency department, and ensures that individuals receive timely evaluations.
- Provides more than 3,300 clinical services annually to NCNG service members and their families, as well as other mental health services for first responders.
- Decreases officer vacancy rates and therefore reduces costs, like overtime pay.
- Reduces reliance on health care worker contracts by recruiting and retaining more state-employed nurses and health care techs.
- Recruits and retains up to 900 additional NCNG service members.
- Provides school breakfast at no cost to every public school student in the state.
- Provides flexible, targeted state funding to help counties address severe DSS workforce shortages, reduce caseload backlogs, improve service timeliness and quality, and stabilize essential services for children, families, and adults.
- Sustains the state's SNAP program, which provides \$2.8 billion in federally funded benefits to low-income individuals and families to help afford nutritious food.
- Provides \$40 per month in SUN Bucks grocery benefits per child for three months to more than 1 million children to address the summer food gap families face when school is not in session.
- Improves the reliability and reach of USDA nutrition programs by strengthening the state's capacity to efficiently move food to seniors, families, food banks, and community partners through better program management, ordering, and distribution.

- Expands access to safe, reliable drinking water statewide by leveraging federal investment, strengthening distressed water systems, enhancing PFAS detection and remediation, and providing immediate support to households with contaminated wells, ultimately improving public health and long-term water system resilience.
- Strengthens statewide protection against food-safety risks by sustaining inspection, laboratory, and compliance capacity to identify contamination, enforce safety standards, and maintain a secure food supply as federal oversight resources decline.
- Decreases firearm violence in communities statewide.
- Reduces fentanyl use and overdoses and emergency department visits from THC ingestion throughout the state.

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