

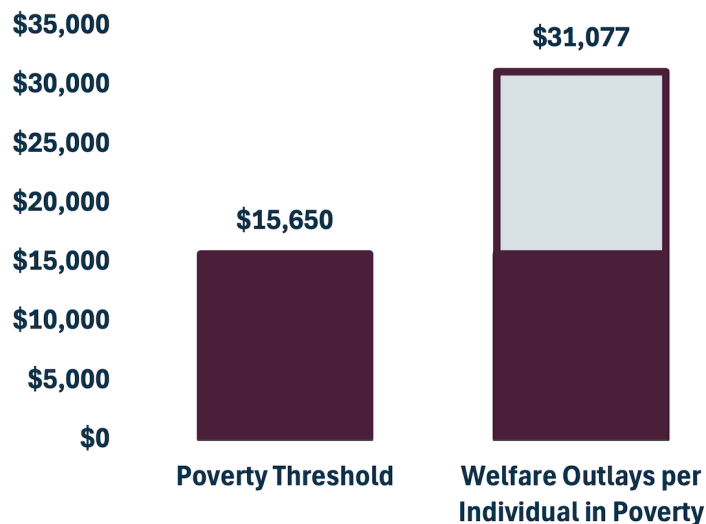
WELFARE SPENDING ALMOST DOUBLE THE POVERTY THRESHOLD PER IMPOVERISHED PERSON

Amelia Kuntzman, Research Assistant
February 19, 2025

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, the U.S. federal government is projected to [spend over \\$1.2 trillion on welfare programs](#), according to the [Congressional Budget Office \(CBO\)](#). This amounts to \$31,077 per impoverished person.

That means the government will spend almost *double* the poverty threshold per impoverished person.

Welfare Spending in 2025



Sources: CBO, HHS, U.S. Census

These figures were calculated using the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO's) [2025 outlay projections](#), CBO's [2025 demographic projections](#), the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS's) [2025 poverty threshold](#), and the U.S. Census' most [recent poverty rate](#).

Trillions of dollars in welfare spending, yet the system continues to fail Americans. With a [lack of program accountability](#) and [billions of dollars in waste](#), individuals are becoming [increasingly dependent](#) on welfare.

In general, welfare should serve as a short-term safety net that ultimately encourages individuals to take part in fulfilling work and provide for themselves.

It would be wise for lawmakers to refrain from dumping [trillions](#) more into the system over the next decade and instead reform programs to encourage self-sufficiency.