



ASK THE CANDIDATES

What will you do to ensure North Carolina workers and families have what they need during times of personal hardship and economic downturn?

- What is your vision for supporting North Carolinians' basic needs during the recovery from the COVID-19 economic crisis?
- Do you support ending the North Carolina ban on seeking a waiver of SNAP work requirements for able-bodied individuals without children who cannot find employment within three months?
- There are tens of thousands of children on the waitlist for the North Carolina child care subsidy program. What will you do to expand access to legal, licensed, quality child care to those children so their families can continue to work and provide for their families?
- Tax credits for working families like the EITC have been shown to improve the health and well-being of children and parents. Will you bring back the North Carolina state EITC and expand other tax credits for working families?
- North Carolina's cash assistance program, "Work First", is serving fewer and fewer North Carolinians with a benefit that has not increased in 25 years. What will you do to strengthen the program so that it serves as a bridge from poverty to financial stability?
- If corporations and wealthy North Carolinians were asked to pay as much in taxes as North Carolinians with low to middle incomes as a share of their income, what would you do with that revenue to support the well-being of workers and families in our state?

Safety net programs are a crucial tool to weather the economic toll of COVID-19. We need lawmakers who will champion anti-poverty solutions and strengthen and expand our existing safety net programs.

FACTS YOU CAN USE

- The **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**, or food assistance, distributes cards with a value that can be redeemed on unprepared food from grocery establishments. The program is known to be the most effective anti-hunger program and has been shown to increase GDP by \$1.50 for every dollar spent in a weak economy.
- **Medicaid** is a public health insurance program for certain people with low incomes. Through the Affordable Care Act, states have the option to increase access to the program, but North Carolina has not expanded Medicaid. Due to the pandemic, there are now approximately 750,000 people who could receive health insurance coverage under the expanded program who remain ineligible.
- **Women, Infants and Children (WIC)** is a supplemental nutrition program for pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and young children with low incomes and who are at nutritional risk.
- The **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** is a tax credit for low- and moderate-income workers that has been shown to improve physical and mental health and reduce the incidence of low birth weight.
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** provides temporary cash assistance to families with very low incomes and is meant to assist participants with job preparation and related services.
- The **North Carolina Child Care Subsidy Program** is used by eligible parents with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level. [There are currently tens of thousands of eligible North Carolinians children on the waitlist due to a lack of state investment in this program.](#)
- **Unemployment Insurance** is designed to partially replace wages when a person loses their job. The state program provides up to 12 weeks of benefits to eligible workers who become unemployed through no fault of their own and who meet certain requirements.

DID YOU GET A REAL, MEANINGFUL ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION?

If not, here are some follow-up questions that might help you get a more specific answer:

- Please be more specific about the actions you will take to implement your plan.
- Can you tell me about what principles and/or values will guide your decisions on this issue?
- What are the problems you see in the current approach?

TELL US WHAT YOU HEARD.

VISIT WWW.NCJUSTICE.ORG/ELECTION2020 TO SHARE THE ANSWERS YOU RECEIVED.