



Let Them Eat Cake: Cost of Corruption Report

The Trump Family Pocketed Nearly \$3 Billion While Millions of Americans Lost Food Assistance

Donald Trump promised to bring down costs for American families. Instead, he turned the presidency into the most profitable venture of his career. Since the November 2024 election, the Trump family has [pocketed more than \\$2.9 billion](#) in cash and gifts from crypto ventures, legal settlements, a luxury jet from a foreign government, and corporate deals. Trump also signed a budget law that cut [almost \\$187 billion from SNAP](#), the program that helps families buy groceries. [5.2 million fewer people](#) now receive SNAP.

The Trumps' windfall alone could cover a full year of groceries for about 1.3 million people on SNAP. Meanwhile, Trump's pardons have let wealthy allies and fraudsters walk away from [nearly \\$1.7 billion](#) owed to victims and taxpayers.

This report puts those facts side by side.

KEY POINTS

- The Trump family has [pocketed more than \\$2.9 billion](#) in cash and gifts since the November 2024 election, according to the Center for American Progress. More than \$2.4 billion comes from crypto alone.
- That money could pay for a full year of SNAP benefits for about 1.3 million people, or more than 600 million free school lunches.
- Trump's budget law slashed [almost \\$187 billion](#) from SNAP and [more than \\$900 billion](#) from Medicaid. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the law will leave [10 million more Americans uninsured by 2034](#).
- Since Trump signed the law, [5.2 million fewer people](#) receive help buying groceries through SNAP.
- Trump's pardons wiped out [nearly \\$1.7 billion](#) in restitution, fines, and forfeitures owed to victims and taxpayers.
- Congress must stop the self-dealing and hold this administration accountable.

WHAT THE TRUMPS TOOK: The Presidency Became the Family Business

Under Trump, government decisions come with a price tag. Foreign governments, corporations, and allies seeking favors no longer need to lobby the United States government. They can pay the president's family instead.

Figures in this section come from the [Center for American Progress's "Trump's Take" tracker](#) as of October 5, 2026, which covers Donald, Melania, Donald Jr., and Eric Trump.

- **The Trump Family Has Pocketed More Than \$2.9 Billion Since the 2024 Election.** The Center for American Progress tracks only cash and gifts the Trump family has [actually received](#) since November 2024, excluding real estate, golf courses, and other assets Trump held before the election. As of October 5, 2026, the total stands at roughly \$2.93 billion.
- **Crypto Ventures Brought In More Than \$2.4 Billion.** The family's biggest payday came after Trump reversed his opposition to crypto and his administration deregulated the industry. The family has collected [\\$1.447 billion](#) from World Liberty Financial token sales, \$636 million from the TRUMP meme coin, \$262.5 million from World Liberty Financial equity sales, and \$63 million in stablecoin interest.
- **Trump's Crypto Empire Runs Through an Exchange That Pleaded Guilty to Iran Sanctions Violations.** The family's USD1 stablecoin depends on Binance, the world's largest crypto exchange, which [pleaded guilty in 2023](#) to sanctions and money laundering violations tied largely to Iran and paid \$4.3 billion in penalties. According to Public Citizen, Binance built the infrastructure for USD1 and holds the vast majority of it. Since then, Trump pardoned Binance's founder, and his administration dismissed an SEC lawsuit against the company.
- **A Foreign Security Official Bought In, and the Administration Delivered.** An investment vehicle controlled by the United Arab Emirates' national security advisor [put \\$500 million into World Liberty Financial](#), becoming its largest outside shareholder. Shortly after, the Trump administration cleared a plan to export advanced AI chips to the UAE despite national security concerns. According to the Center for American Progress, [\\$187 million](#) of the deal went directly to Trump family-controlled entities.
- **Trump Accepted a \$400 Million Jet From a Foreign Government.** Trump accepted a [luxury Boeing 747-8 from Qatar](#), worth roughly \$400 million, to use for the rest of his term and then donate to his presidential library foundation.
- **Companies Paid \$90.5 Million to Settle Trump's Lawsuits.** YouTube, ABC, Paramount/CBS, Meta, and X paid Trump [\\$90.5 million](#) to settle lawsuits he filed in his personal capacity. The money is slated to go to Trump, his presidential library, or the White House ballroom Trump said he would pay for himself.
- **Amazon Paid the First Lady \$28 Million.** Amazon struck a [\\$40 million deal](#) to license a documentary about Melania Trump's return to the White House. Her direct take is reported at \$28 million.

WHAT THAT MONEY COULD BUY: Every Dollar the Trumps Pocketed Could Have Helped Feed a Family

Trump promised relief for working families. His own family got it instead. The Trumps' windfall, translated into groceries and school meals, shows exactly who this government serves.

- **A Full Year of Groceries for About 1.3 Million People.** The Trump family's take could cover a full year of SNAP benefits for about 1.3 million Americans, based on the [average SNAP benefit](#) of about \$188 per person per month in fiscal year 2025.

- **More Than 600 Million Free School Lunches.** The same money could pay for more than 600 million free school lunches, even at the [highest federal reimbursement rate](#) of \$4.87 per meal for the 2026-27 school year.
- **Three Months of Groceries for the 5.2 Million People Who Lost SNAP.** \$2.93 billion would cover roughly three months of average benefits for the 5.2 million fewer people receiving SNAP since Trump's budget law was enacted.

Each figure divides the Center for American Progress's Trump's Take tracker total of about \$2.93 billion (as of October 5, 2026) by the unit cost.

WHAT FAMILIES LOST: Trump Cut Food and Health Care While His Family Cashed In

While the Trump family collected billions, Trump's budget law stripped food assistance and health care from millions of Americans. Families lost help buying groceries and paying for doctor's visits while money flowed to Trump's allies and insiders.

- **Trump Cut Almost \$187 Billion From SNAP.** The Congressional Budget Office estimates Trump's budget law slashes federal SNAP spending by [almost \\$187 billion](#) over 10 years.
- **5.2 Million Fewer Americans Get Help Buying Groceries.** Since Trump signed the budget law in July 2025, SNAP participation has dropped by [about 5.2 million people](#), according to a Food Research & Action Center analysis of USDA data. About 36.4 million people received SNAP in June 2026, roughly 6.1 million fewer than when Trump took office.
- **States Now Pay More to Run SNAP.** As of October 1, 2026, states must cover [75% of SNAP administrative costs](#), up from 50%. Starting in October 2027, many states will also have to cover part of SNAP benefit costs, depending on their payment error rates.
- **Trump Cut More Than \$900 Billion From Medicaid.** Trump's budget law cut [more than \\$900 billion](#) from Medicaid. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the law will leave [10 million more Americans uninsured by 2034](#).
- **Grocery Bills Keep Climbing.** Grocery prices have risen 3.4% since Trump took office, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics data comparing [January 2025](#) with [August 2026](#).

WHAT IT COST THE PUBLIC: Taxpayers and Victims Are Footing the Bill

Trump's self-dealing goes beyond his family's bank accounts. He rewards loyalty over the law, while victims and taxpayers pick up the tab. These figures are tracked separately and are not included in the family total above.

- **Trump's Pardons Erased Nearly \$1.7 Billion Owed to Victims and Taxpayers.** Trump's pardons let wealthy allies and fraudsters walk away from [nearly \\$1.7 billion](#) in restitution, fines, and forfeitures, according to House Judiciary Democrats.
- **Trump Granted Clemency to Health Care Fraudsters Behind More Than \$2 Billion in Fraud.** Across his two terms, Trump has [granted clemency 15 times](#) to business owners, pharmacists, doctors, and health care executives convicted in health care fraud

cases. According to Protect Our Care, they collectively defrauded the federal government of more than \$2 billion. In his second term, Trump commuted the sentence of a Florida executive who stole \$205 million from Medicare in what was then the largest therapy-related Medicare fraud scheme in history.

- **A Foreign Steel Giant Offered Trump's Ballroom \$37 Million in Steel. Two Days Later, Trump Opened the Door to a Tariff Break.** Two days after Trump told ballroom donors that a steel company had offered [\\$37 million in steel](#) for his White House ballroom, his administration issued a proclamation allowing tariffs to be cut by up to half for steel producers with plants in Canada or Mexico that supply U.S. automakers. ArcelorMittal, a Luxembourg-based steel giant, makes automotive steel in Canada and, according to people familiar with the plans, is providing the steel for the ballroom.
- **Companies Backed by Trump's Sons Have Collected \$3.2 Billion in Federal Money.** Fifteen companies with investments from Trump's sons have [received \\$3.2 billion](#) in federal contracts, investments, and loans, most of it since Trump took office for the second time. One company, Vulcan Elements, which Trump Jr. has invested in, received a \$620 million direct federal loan from the Pentagon after being fast-tracked ahead of other firms waiting in line. Democratic lawmakers have asked the Pentagon's inspector general to investigate.
- **Taxpayers Are Funding Ads That Promote the President.** The Department of Homeland Security [tapped \\$20 million in taxpayer funds](#) for campaign-style ads glorifying the president. Even Senate Majority Leader John Thune, a Republican from South Dakota, said the ads "shouldn't be paid for with taxpayer dollars."

HOW WE COUNTED

This report counts only the cash and gifts the Trump family actually received since the November 2024 election, as tracked by the Center for American Progress's Trump's Take tracker. The total includes crypto income calculated from actual trading activity, the value of gifts and legal settlements, and Melania Trump's reported take from her documentary deal. It also includes the \$400 million luxury jet from Qatar. Qatar provided the jet for Trump's use, and after his term it is slated to go to his presidential library foundation, a private organization. The total excludes assets Trump held before the election and paper gains on unsold stock and crypto. Costs to the public, such as erased restitution and taxpayer-funded spending, are reported separately and never added to the family total. Every figure is sourced and dated as of October 5, 2026.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Trump promised to lower costs. Instead, he cut food assistance for millions while making his own family richer than ever. Congress must stop the self-dealing, demand transparency, and hold this administration accountable.

Sources

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- [New York Times, White House Secures Foreign Steel for Ballroom Project](#) (April 8, 2026)
- [Protect Our Care, The Real Fraud: Trump Pardoned the Nation's Biggest Health Care Fraudsters](#) (April 21, 2026)
- [Center for American Progress, release on the UAE crypto deal](#)
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- [Associated Press, Homeland Security taps \\$20M in taxpayer funds for pro-Trump ads](#) (September 2026)