



National Organization for Women

Iran War Spending How Can the Money Help Women Instead?

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As of April 7th, 2026, the United States has spent an estimated \$48 billion in direct military costs since the outbreak of major combat operations against Iran. That's approximately [\\$1 billion](#) per day. **What could that money be used for instead?**

Program	War Expenses (39 days) Equivalent (\$49B)	Impact for Recipients
National WIC Program	6.8 years of full funding	Every eligible mother and child in the U.S. would be fully funded through the year 2033
WIC Funding Gap	48 years of stability	The recurring \$1 billion annual gap that forces states to implement waiting lists for infants and pregnant women could be eliminated for five decades
National SNAP Benefits	6 months of total coverage	The federal government could fund the entire grocery budget for all 42 million SNAP recipients for nearly six months
SNAP Policy Cuts	2.6 years of reversal	The \$18.7 billion in annual benefit cuts mandated by the 2025 "Big Beautiful Bill" could be completely wiped out for over 18 months

WIC: The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) required approximately \$7.2 to \$7.3 billion in [federal funding for fiscal year 2024](#) to serve over 6.7 million participants monthly.

- The **approximately \$48 billion** spent in the first 39 days of the Iran war is **enough to fund the entire WIC program (~\$7 billion annually) for nearly seven years.**

SNAP: The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) requires approximately [\\$100 billion to \\$102 billion in federal funding annually](#), based on fiscal year 2024 and 2025 data.

- If the \$48 billion were distributed among the roughly 42 million Americans currently enrolled in SNAP, it would provide a **\$1,143 worth of healthy foods per person**. The federal government could fund the **entire monthly grocery budget for all 42 million SNAP recipients for nearly six months.**

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