

# CHILDREN'S BUDGET 2011

The federal government funds over 180 different children's programs, from child health and education to child welfare and juvenile justice. *Children's Budget 2011* is a comprehensive guide to all federal spending on children and an invaluable resource for all those seeking to improve the lives of America's youth.

This year, *Children's Budget* includes expanded analysis of investments in children provided through the economic recovery package, known as the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA).

## KEY FINDINGS FROM THIS YEAR'S PUBLICATION:

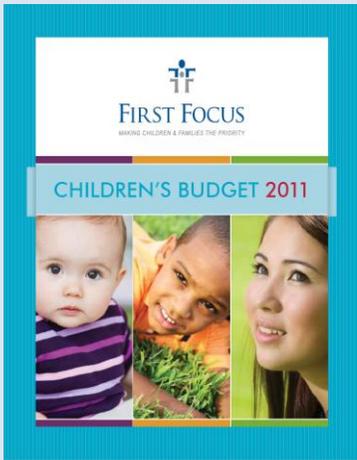
- Children's spending makes up less than nine percent of the entire federal budget.
- Mandatory spending on children has increased 28 percent since 2007 mostly because of the increase in need for social safety net programs.
- Real discretionary spending on children has increase by 1.9 percent since 2007, while at the same time total federal discretionary spending has increased by 5.2 percent.
- ARRA added critical and needed funding for kids, but that funding has already started to run out. Due to ARRA, it is predicted that **an additional \$30 billion** will be spent on children's programs in 2011, an **11 percent increase**.
- Without ARRA, this year's spending on kids would be **less than 8 percent** of the federal budget, which is below 2007 levels.

## MAINTAINING THE INVESTMENT:

- The boost in federal spending on children during 2010 and 2011 were largely due to increased spending under ARRA. Unless the federal government chooses to appropriate higher yearly levels of support, these programs will be forced to scale back to pre-2009 levels. Many programs are already facing the so-called "budget cliff" which is steadily increasing in importance as 2011 progresses and we look at funding for 2012.
- The President's budget, though calling for a 4 percent increase on spending for kids, is only a blueprint. Congress must enact the related policies and deep cuts have already been proposed for 2012. Investments in children are vital to the nation's continued fiscal well being.

**CHILDRENS**  **BUDGET.ORG**

For additional information on children in the federal budget, visit [www.childrensbudget.org](http://www.childrensbudget.org), the online companion to the Children's Budget book series. This resource provides a dynamic and customizable element to the federal budget data, allowing users to glean the precise information that they need, quickly, easily, and in real time.



## A UNIQUE RESOURCE

*Children's Budget 2011* is a valuable resource for advocates, policymakers, and program administrators alike. For each of the more than 180 federally funded children's programs, the book offers:

- Program descriptions
- Current appropriation levels
- Funding levels from the past five fiscal years
- Proposed funding levels for the coming fiscal year
- The change over time in funding as a percentage of growth (both in nominal and inflation adjusted terms)

## USER FRIENDLY

- Programs are organized into broad categories such as child health and education, allowing users to compare investments across policy areas.
- The book highlights specific programs, drawing attention to their significant role in the lives of children.

