

HOUSE BUDGET FORCES DEEPER CUTS TO CHILD NUTRITION



FIRST FOCUS

MAKING CHILDREN & FAMILIES THE PRIORITY



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The U.S. House of Representatives budget resolution for federal fiscal year 2013 specified billions of dollars in cuts to children's health, nutrition, and other investments in kids. It also included "reconciliation instructions" that require congressional committees with jurisdiction over other children's initiatives to make even deeper cuts.

On April 18, 2012, the House Agriculture Committee approved legislation satisfying the requirement to cut \$33.2 billion from agriculture programs, by going above and beyond this amount and solely targeting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for a \$36 billion cut.

THE FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN CHILD NUTRITION

President Obama's FY2013 budget included over \$80 billion in funding for SNAP, of which nearly half or more than \$40 billion goes to kids. SNAP provides bread, milk, and other groceries to over 20 million children. This \$36 billion dollar cut comes on the heels of the House FY 2013 budget that cuts the SNAP program by \$133 billion by converting the program into a block grant. This move would tie the hands of states and local governments from providing nutritious food for children in the face of a natural disaster or economic depression, such as a local plant closing.

THE IMPACT OF RECONCILIATION CUTS

Targeting only the SNAP program for cuts, despite the committee's jurisdiction over other farm programs, prevents families from providing healthy food for their children when a parent falls on hard times, such as losing a job or not gaining full time employment. Nearly half of all SNAP recipients are kids and these cuts are expected to take SNAP benefits away from nearly 2 million participants and will lower benefit levels for all remaining participants.

Some cuts in this reconciliation legislation, if passed by the full House will take effect this summer and families will immediately see less money in their benefits. In addition, these cuts will not only eliminate SNAP benefits from children, but over 280,000 low income children will lose automatic access to free lunch through the School Meals Program. SNAP and the School Meals Program help parents feed hungry kids and reduces the hunger rate in children, as well as keeping families from falling into poverty. As our country continues to recover from the economic recession, it is important, now more than ever that we invest in nutrition programs for children.

NEXT STEPS

The committee's approval of reconciliation sets the state for a House floor debate of comprehensive budget reconciliation legislation. If the House passes the reconciliation cuts, the U.S. Senate would have to pass identical legislation, before these cuts could take effect.-

RECONCILIATION THREATENS OTHER CHILDREN'S PRIORITIES

The budget resolution requires committees with jurisdiction over a wide range of children's priorities to make deep cuts. While not all cuts will target children, evidence to date suggests that the reconciliation process puts investments in kids at great risk.

Committee	Children's Initiatives At Risk	Cuts FY12 to 22
Agriculture	Child nutrition	\$33.20 billion
Energy & Commerce	Children's health & environmental health	\$96.76 billion
Financial Services	Children's housing	\$29.80 billion
Judiciary	Juvenile justice	\$39.70 billion
Reform & Government Oversight	Education	\$78.90 billion
Ways & Means	Child Tax Credit & Social Services Block Grant	\$53 billion
Total		\$331.36 billion