



FIRST FOCUS

MAKING CHILDREN & FAMILIES THE PRIORITY

CHILD RELATED PROVISIONS IN THE AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT A SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate passed versions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. There were significant differences between the two versions, especially in terms of the nature of the investment in children. The House-passed version included more than \$154 billion in spending and tax cuts aimed at children, while the Senate eventually passed a bill that included far less for children, about \$111 billion.

Fortunately, during the conference between the House and the Senate, many of the reductions to children's programs and tax provisions were either fully or partially restored. Notable improvements from the Senate bill include an additional \$4 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, a lowered Child Tax Credit income threshold which will expand CTC benefits for more than twelve million children, and funding for Head Start fully restored to the House-passed levels. Though resources aimed specifically for school construction remain absent from the conference agreement, some additional funding was included in the state fiscal stabilization fund to allow school districts to undertake school renovation and improvements. All together, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, as agreed to by the Senate and House conferees, includes more than \$140 billion in economically stimulative investments in children. While somewhat lower than the original bill passed by the House, this nevertheless represents a significant improvement over that which passed the Senate.

	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE
EDUCATION:			
Education for Homeless Children and Youth	\$66 million	\$70 million	\$70 million
Education Technology	\$1 billion	\$1 billion	\$650 million
Improving Teacher Quality Grants	\$300 million	\$100 million	\$300 million
School Construction	\$14 billion	None	None
Special Education Grants	\$13 billion	\$13 billion	\$11.7 billion
State Fiscal Stabilization Fund ¹	\$79 billion	\$39 billion	\$53.6 billion
Statewide Education Data Systems	\$250 million	None	\$250 million
Title I Grants	\$13 billion	\$12.4 billion	\$13 billion
<i>Subtotal Education</i>	<i>\$80.6 billion</i>	<i>\$46.1 billion</i>	<i>\$71.5 billion</i>
TAX:			
Child Tax Credit	\$18.2 billion	\$7.5 billion	\$14.8 billion
Earned Income Tax Credit	\$4.7 billion	\$4.7 billion	\$4.7 billion
School Construction Bonds	\$9.9 billion	\$4.5 billion	\$9.9 billion
Tax Incentives to Hire Disconnected Youth ²	\$208 million	\$208 million	\$208 million
Qualified Zone Academy Bonds	\$1 billion	\$1 billion	\$1 billion
<i>Subtotal Tax</i>	<i>\$33.9 billion</i>	<i>\$17.8 billion</i>	<i>\$30.5 billion</i>
HEALTH:			
Community Health Centers*	\$1.5 billion	\$1.9 billion	\$2 billion
Lead Paint Removal Grants	\$100 million	\$100 million	\$100 million
Medicaid Aid to States*	\$87 billion	\$87 billion	\$87 billion
<i>Subtotal Health</i>	<i>\$18 billion</i>	<i>\$18.2 billion</i>	<i>\$18.2 billion</i>

NUTRITION:			
Afterschool Meals	\$726 million	None	\$100 million
School Lunch Equipment	None	\$100 million	None
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program*	\$20 billion	\$16.5 billion	\$20 billion
WIC	\$100 million	\$500 million	\$500 million
<i>Subtotal Nutrition</i>	<i>\$10.8 billion</i>	<i>\$8.9 billion</i>	<i>\$10.6 billion</i>

EARLY CHILDHOOD:			
Child Care and Development Block Grant	\$2 billion	\$2 billion	\$2 billion
Department of Defense Child Development Centers	\$360 million	\$353 million	\$360 million
Head Start	\$2.1 billion	\$1.05 billion	\$2.1 billion
Special Education Infants and Families Grants	\$600 million	\$500 million	\$500 million
<i>Subtotal Early Childhood</i>	<i>\$5 billion</i>	<i>\$3.9 billion</i>	<i>\$4.9 billion</i>

INCOME SUPPORT:			
Child Support Enforcement	\$1 billion	\$1 billion	\$1 billion
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ^{3*}	\$2.5 billion	\$3 billion	\$5 billion
<i>Subtotal Income Support</i>	<i>\$2.9 billion</i>	<i>\$3.3 billion</i>	<i>\$4.8 billion</i>

OTHER:			
AmeriCorps*	\$200 million	\$200 million	\$200 million
Community Services Block Grant*	\$1 billion	\$200 million	\$1 billion
Compassion Capital Fund	\$100 million	None	\$50 million
Foster Care Aid to States ⁴	\$1 billion	\$1 billion	\$1 billion
Job Corps Facilities	\$300 million	\$160 million	\$250 million
Social Services Block Grant*	None	\$400 million	None
YouthBuild	\$50 million	\$100 million	\$50 million
Youth Training and Employment Services	\$1.2 billion	\$1.2 billion	\$1.2 billion
<i>Subtotal Other</i>	<i>\$2.9 billion</i>	<i>\$2.9 billion</i>	<i>\$2.8 billion</i>

TOTAL KIDS:	\$154.2 BILLION	\$111.5 BILLION	\$143.7 BILLION
--------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------

* This program is not exclusive to children. For purposes of summing, we use a percentage of this funding corresponding to the share allocated to children as described in *Children's Budget 2008*.

1 In the House version, \$39 billion of this fund was directed to local education agencies. In the Senate version, \$30 billion would have gone to education. The conference agreement includes \$45.6 billion from this fund for education, including language to allow "school modernization."

2 This provision also incentivizes the hiring of veterans. In addition, disconnected youth is defined up to age 25. For purposes of summing, we count half of this total as "child related."

3 The figures here for both the Senate's bill and the final bill reflect the capped amounts included in those bills. The actual outlays are likely to be closer to \$2.4 billion.

4 This funding is connected to the Medicaid FMAP increase and is an estimate based on Congressional Budget Office scoring.