

President Trump's **\$4.1 trillion budget proposal** for Fiscal Year 2018 seeks **massive cuts to critical programs** that help American children and families. It takes aim at all areas of life that impact kids: health, education, poverty, housing, immigration, and foster care.

The Trump budget includes approximately \$1 trillion for discretionary spending. It slashes funding for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by 16 percent. It cuts 14 percent from the Department of Education, 12 percent from Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and eviscerates Medicaid to the tune of \$1.5 trillion.

Below is a summary of how many of the administration's proposals for FY 2018 spending will affect the health and well-being of children and families.

## HEALTH

**Deep cuts to Medicaid.** The Trump budget cuts Medicaid funding by \$610 billion, ending the Medicaid entitlement and changing the program into a system financed through block grant or per capita payments to states beginning in 2020. With more than 37 million children in America relying on Medicaid for their health insurance, cuts of this magnitude would have a dramatic impact on health care access, coverage, and benefits for our nation's children. The president's proposed Medicaid cuts are in addition to \$880 billion in Medicaid cuts that are currently pending before Congress. Combined, those Medicaid cuts would result in slashing the program by an astonishing \$1.5 trillion over the next decade.

**Deep cuts to CHIP.** As with Medicaid, the Trump budget proposal not only slashes funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), it fundamentally restructures the program. Despite proposing a two-year extension for CHIP through 2019, it cuts allotments by a staggering \$5.8 billion or 21 percent. CHIP is an enormously successful bipartisan program that covers 8.9 million kids and, since its inception in 1997, has reduced the number of uninsured children by an astounding 68 percent. But its funding is set to expire on September 30, so Congress must act to extend the program as soon as possible.

**Elimination of funding for some children's programs.** While some kids-focused programs remain flat or receive modest increases, others are zeroed out in the president's budget. They include Emergency Medical Services for Children, Autism and Other Developmental Disorders, and Universal Newborn Hearing Screening.

Go here for a full analysis of the impact of the President's Proposed FY 18 Budget on the health of children.

## HUNGER AND NUTRITION

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) slashed.** President Trump's proposed FY 18 budget seeks to cut SNAP by \$193 billion over 10 years. This includes structural changes that would severely weaken SNAP's ability to be responsive during economic downturns.

Currently, more than 20 million children are served by SNAP. It is one of the most critical government programs for the health and well-being of American children. With nearly half of every SNAP dollar going directly to kids, the program combats hunger for the 1 in 5 children living in "food insecure" households. SNAP is one of the most effective ways to fight child poverty and is also credited with boosting academic performance in kids, which, in turns, helps them lay a foundation for economic self-sufficiency.

## HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

The homelessness rate of American children and youth continues to skyrocket, but President Trump's proposed budget aims to make massive cuts to homeless assistance and affordable housing programs that help children and families.

**National Housing Trust Fund eliminated.** This program provides resources to build and rehabilitate housing, including rental housing, for low-income families. About one-quarter of this spending, or \$35 million, goes to children.

**Legal Services Corporation (LSC) eliminated.** This important organization provides civil legal services for low income families, including representation for families facing eviction.

**Other draconian cuts.** The proposed budget also seeks to cut \$133 million from Homeless Assistance Grants, \$15 million from the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes Grants, and cut the Tenant Rental Assistance Program by 5 percent.

## INCOME SUPPORT

**Cash assistance slashed.** The White House budget proposes a devastating cut of \$21 billion over 10 years to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, the primary cash assistance program for low-income families with children. Fully 75 percent of TANF funding goes to children. Income support is critical to healthy child development and academic achievement. It helps parents provide the resources needed for economic mobility – such as transportation to work, childcare, and educational materials for their kids. In addition, TANF funds go towards funding child welfare services, child care, and state tax credits benefiting low-income families. This enormous cut would devastate TANF by reducing caseloads even further and harming its already weakened ability to respond to increased need during economic downturns.

**Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) eliminated.** This vital program currently funds an array of services for children, including child care, child abuse prevention, adoption assistance, and transitional services. Currently, states use about 35% of SSBG dollars for child welfare services to supplement Title IV-E and IV-B funds.

**Cuts to Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.** The president wants to cut \$40 billion from the Earned Interest Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) over 10 years. In 2015 alone, the EITC and CTC helped lift more than 5 million children out of poverty. These cuts would prevent access to the credits for families filing their taxes with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), putting more than 4 million Latino citizen children at greater risk of poverty.

**Low Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP) eliminated.** Nearly one-quarter of all funding for this critical program is directed toward children.

## EDUCATION

**Title I reduced.** The budget is asking for \$578 million below FY17 for Title I, which addresses disparities in education resources for low-income students by targeting funds to public schools in areas of concentrated poverty.

**Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) cut.** The budget includes a 7 percent reduction to EHCY, which serves more than 1.2 million students experiencing homelessness in the public-school system by providing protections and services to ensure they can enroll in and attend school, complete their high school education, and continue to higher education.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Centers eliminated.** The budget does not fund the \$1.2 billion for before- and after-school programs that support academic achievement for low-income students, including providing nutrition to students during the summer.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

**Home Visiting funding increased.** The president's budget increases funding for the bipartisan-supported Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) and extends funding at \$400 million for FY 2018 and FY 2019. This funding will allow the MIECHV program to expand access for at-risk families to voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services where nurses, social workers, and other professionals connect with families to provide necessary support services. Current funding for the MIECHV program is set to expire on September 30.

**Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funding decreased.** This is the primary government program that helps low-income families obtain child care. The budget proposes to fund the Child Care and Development Block Grant at FY 2016 levels and does not include the increase contained in the FY 2017 final Omnibus appropriations bill. The president's budget cuts childcare assistance at a time when it is imposing work requirements on families.

**Head Start funding reduced.** Like the CCDBG, the proposed FY 2018 budget seeks to fund Head Start at FY 2016 levels and excludes the increase contained in the FY 2017 final Omnibus appropriations bill. The highly successful Head Start program provides comprehensive health, education, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income families to improve the early health and education of young children.

**Preschool Development Grant eliminated.** These grants allowing states to improve their preschool infrastructure by enabling them to develop high quality preschool programs have been zeroed out in President Trump's budget.

**Parental Leave Policy is a first step.** Broadly summarized, this initiative would provide six weeks of paid leave to a parental to care for their babies. At \$18.5 billion over 10 years, states would be required to create their plans using unemployment insurance funding. It is unclear whether this program would benefit low-income working parents with enough income to allow them to participate, but this proposal is a step in the right direction.

## CHILD WELFARE

The major sources of funding for child welfare programs, Title IV-E and Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, have largely been left untouched in the President's budget. However, there are several programs that have been reduced or cut that will heavily impact how states use federal dollars to support their child welfare programs, which puts the safety and well-being of children in care at risk.

**Adoption Opportunities Program cut by \$9 million.** This program helps children achieve permanency by providing funds to eliminate barriers to adoption and helping find permanent families for children who would benefit from adoption, especially those with special needs. Currently, more than 20,000 foster youth age out of the child welfare system each year without ever finding permanent homes.

The elimination of the **Social Security Block Grant** and reduction of **TANF** funds also greatly impacts child welfare systems since states use these funding streams to supplement child welfare programs. Cuts to **Medicaid** also significantly impact child welfare populations since most are covered through Medicaid and rely on it for physical health exams and mental health services and therapies.

## IMMIGRATION

The budget proposes deep cuts to refugee programs that help children who have come to the United States in search of a better life.

**Unaccompanied Alien Children funding cut in half.** The president's budget seeks to reduce spending by 50 percent for a program helping support thousands of children who crossed the southwestern border alone. Many of these kids have faced horrific trauma, such as being trafficked from places like El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

**Refugee Children programs eliminated.** The budget also proposes to defund an array of programs for refugee children, which will make it more difficult for them to rehabilitate from trauma and be reunited with families in the United States.