Good news for kids
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Lawmakers say they have found a mutually agreeable framework for an omnibus spending bill. Why is this good for kids? Because a long-term Continuing Resolution — too often the go-to Congressional vehicle — would keep the share of federal spending on children at the historic lows reached under the Trump Administration, which bottomed out at 7.6%.

Fun Fact: In a 2008 poll, voters told us that they thought government spending on kids was about 18%, but that it should be more like 30%. President Biden’s FY 2022 budget — which requests the highest share of spending on children we have ever tracked — falls short of that target, but does recommend an increase to 12.7%.

For more details dip into our 2021 Children’s Budget.
Working out the ACA’s (family) glitch

Administration officials could address the Affordable Care Act’s infamous “family glitch” — which excludes nearly 2.8 million children from health care coverage — as early as this summer.

The so-called “family glitch” underestimates the true cost of covering a family, making employer-sponsored coverage unaffordable by excluding the family from marketplace subsidies. The Biden Administration has ordered a review that could repair this oversight in the coming months. Please see our fact sheet “Removing the Family Glitch from the ACA” for more details.

First Focus on Children has worked for more than a decade to repair the family glitch. In 2012, First Focus Campaign for Children sent a letter to Congressional Leadership and President Obama urging them to remedy the family glitch, either through legislation or administrative action. In 2014, First Focus President Bruce Lesley testified before a Capitol Hill health care committee, urging Congress to fix this flaw, which has prevented more than two million children a year from receiving health care coverage.
EVENTS

**Briefing will address intergenerational poverty**, Tuesday, Feb. 15, 12:30pm-2:30pmET, by National Association of Counties (NACo). Beginning around 2pm, the virtual briefing on intergovernmental partnership will focus on bipartisan efforts to combat intergenerational poverty with guests including Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM), who has supported early childhood education and solutions to intergenerational poverty. Register at this link.

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