

The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

6 of the best kid items in the Biden budget

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First Focus on Children recently asked the Biden Administration to commit at least [an additional percentage point of federal spending for children](#) in the months and years ahead and to [reverse the downward trend in investing in children](#). Jury's still out on whether the President's FY 2022 budget hits those marks (our budget team is holed up right now with calculators and Red Bull), but in the meantime, here are 6 really great things for kids in the President's plan:

1. **Tax Credits:** Extends or makes permanent improvements to tax credit programs benefitting children and youth to reduce child poverty significantly, aid former foster and homeless youth, and address racial and income inequities in the tax code. Improvements to the Child Tax Credit alone will benefit an estimated 66 million children — or [more than 90% of all U.S. children](#).
2. **Child Care and Early Learning:** Increases key child care funding to provide direct support that will ensure low- and middle-income families spend no more than 7% of their income on child care and that care is provided by a well-trained and well-compensated child care workforce; invests \$200 billion for universal pre-K for all 3- and 4-year-olds.
3. **Education:** Increases funding for community schools to \$443 million — more than ten times FY 2021 levels; aids millions of low-income students by more than doubling Title I assistance to \$36 billion; offers two years of free community college for all Americans (including DACA recipients); increases Pell Grants and other opportunities. The budget also proposes a nearly 17% increase in funding for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grants that support more than 7.6 million pre-school through Grade 12 students.
4. **Immigration:** More than doubles funding for the Office of Refugee Resettlement to \$4.4 billion, with \$3.2 billion — more than 70% — going to support current care of unaccompanied children and expand placements and services for unaccompanied children according to child welfare best practices.
5. **Health:** Invests \$150 million — 50 times more than previously — in a Centers for Disease Control program to advance efforts around racial inequity in health and the social determinants of health, which disproportionately affect people of color, including children; makes significant funding increases in mental health care for children, whose mental health issues have skyrocketed during the pandemic; and provides

robust funding for maternal health to combat high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity.

6. **Hunger:** Makes Summer Electronic Benefits Program permanent, which will help feed 30 million children during the summer months; expands free school meals to reach an additional 9 million children.

And isn't that all sweet?



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First Focus on Children

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