



2025

BABIES IN THE BUDGET

**FEDERAL SHARE OF SPENDING ON INFANTS
AND TODDLERS: FY 2021 - FY 2025**



About First Focus on Children

First Focus on Children is a bipartisan advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families a priority in federal policy and budget decisions. We engage a broad coalition of advocates, partners, and members of Congress to increase investments in our nation's children and ensure that federal spending reflects the fact that every issue is a kids' issue. Our goal is to ensure policymakers put all of our nation's children first — regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender and sexual orientation — so they can thrive now and in the years to come.

For more information about First Focus on Children, or to make a donation, please visit www.firstfocus.org or call 202.657.0670.

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Message from the President of First Focus on Children

Babies Can't Wait



Bruce Lesley

"Many things we need can wait. The child cannot. Now is the time his or her bones are formed, his or her mind developed. To them, we cannot say tomorrow, their name is today." - Gabriela Mistral

Budgets are moral documents. They reveal what a nation chooses to invest in and whom it chooses to value.

This year's *Babies in the Budget* report delivers a stark and deeply troubling finding: in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, the United States devoted just 1.59% of all federal spending to children under the age of 3. For every \$100 the federal government spent, only \$1.59 went to supporting babies — at the very moment in life when investments matter most, when brain development is most rapid, and when the foundations of lifelong health, learning, and opportunity are laid.

That number should stop us in our tracks and demands a reckoning with our national priorities and conscience.

Although babies do not vote, do not have political action committees, and cannot hire lobbyists or organize rallies, they represent our nation's future workforce, caregivers, innovators, taxpayers, and leaders. When we shortchange them, we undermine the very conditions needed for long-term economic growth and national prosperity.

Investments in children, especially in the earliest years, produce outsized returns over time.¹ At the most basic level, spending on children is about improving their lives and well-being. As a nation, we



should strive to prevent children from foregoing needed health care, from going to bed hungry, and from growing up in poverty, as one-in-seven children currently do.

Caring for babies is in all of our interests, as spending on children is also about making investments in human capital. There is, in fact, no greater investment that our society can make. Policies and funding that support babies' health, nutrition, housing stability, and early development reduce future public costs, strengthen labor force participation, improve educational attainment, and expand the future tax base. In sharp contrast, chronic underinvestment shifts costs forward — into higher levels of health care spending, remedial education, child welfare involvement, and lost economic potential. Put simply, failing to invest in babies today is one of the most expensive choices a nation can make.

What makes this year's findings even more alarming is the trajectory they reveal. Since FY 2021, the share of federal spending devoted to infants and toddlers has fallen by 20%. This decline reflects a particular tragedy: while overall spending dropped with the expiration of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) investments, babies and toddlers were disproportionately affected by those cuts.

The temporary investments made during the pandemic — expanded child tax credits, nutrition assistance, health care protection, child care stabilization, and direct economic supports — proved that when we choose to invest in families with young children, child poverty falls, food insecurity declines, health coverage is protected, and families are better able to meet babies' basic needs. Yet instead of building on what worked, policymakers allowed these investments to expire or actively dismantled them.

The result is a federal budget that increasingly treats babies as an afterthought.

Mandatory programs such as Medicaid have, temporarily, prevented the situation from being even worse. Because these programs respond to need rather than annual political whims, they have stabilized the babies' share of federal spending to some extent in recent years. But even this "bright spot" is fragile. Recent legislative actions in the so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill" were

not so beautiful for babies and toddlers, as the legislation included massive cuts to Medicaid — more than \$900 billion in cuts over 10 years — and nearly \$200 billion in cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Together, these cuts threaten to hollow out and undermine the very programs that account for nearly half of all federal investment in babies and toddlers.

These reductions will unfold over the next decade, with profound and long-lasting consequences, unless lawmakers act to protect children from cuts that, once again, disproportionately harm the youngest among us.

Discretionary spending tells an even bleaker story. Funding for programs that support housing stability, nutrition, maternal and infant health, early learning, and environmental safety for babies has been steadily eroded. Since 2021, the share of federal discretionary investments in children ages 0-3 has been cut by more than half — from 2.05% in FY 2021 to 0.96% in FY 2025.

Compounding the harm, the President's FY 2026 budget proposal would cut discretionary investments in babies by an additional 17% after inflation, driving the share down to a shockingly low level of 0.88% of the federal budget. Even in a shrinking budget overall, babies are losing ground faster than anyone else.

If left unaddressed, this trend will have tragic consequences for children and our nation's future.

This report does more than tally dollars. It makes visible what is too often hidden in budget debates: the cumulative effect of policy choices that consistently place our children last. It examines nearly 150 federal programs across almost every department, providing a comprehensive picture of how the federal government supports — or far too often, fails to support — children in their earliest years.

The findings are clear. The consequences are avoidable. And the stakes could not be higher.

A nation that underinvests in babies pays the price later — in higher health care costs, weaker educational outcomes, lost productivity and wages, deeper inequality, and an uncompetitive future. Conversely, a nation that puts babies first reaps returns for generations. This is not ideology. It is economics. It is neuroscience. It is common sense.

Babies can't wait for better politics. They can't wait for future budget cycles. And they certainly can't wait for adults to get comfortable with the idea that children deserve more than scraps and leftovers.

Babies in the Budget 2025 is both a warning and a call to action. The numbers tell a sobering story. What we do next will determine whether that story continues or finally begins to change.



Bruce Lesley
President, First Focus on Children

1. Maag, E., et al. (2023, Sep. 14). The Return on Investing in Children. Retrieved from Tax Policy Center: <https://taxpolicycenter.org/publications/return-investing-children>; Hendren, N., & Sprung-Keyser, B. (2020, Aug.). A Unified Welfare Analysis of Government Policies. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 135(3), 1209-1318; Shaefer, H. L., et al. (2018). A Plan to Reduce Poverty and Income Instability Among Children in the United States. *Russell Sage Journal of the Social Sciences*, 4(2), 22-42; Aizer, A., Hoynes, H. W., & Lleras-Muney, A. (2022). Children and the US Social Safety Net: Balancing Disincentives for Adults and Benefits for Children. Working Paper 29754, National Bureau of Economic Research; Hoynes, H., & Schanzenbach, D. W. (2018). Safety Net Investments in Children. *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, 89-150; Hoynes, H., Schanzenbach, D. W., & Almond, D. (2016). Long-Run Impacts on Childhood Access to the Safety Net. *American Economic Review*, 106(4), 903-934; Garfinkel, I., Sariscany, L., Ananat, E., Collyer, S., & Wimer, C. (2021, Aug. 2). The Costs and Benefits of a Child Allowance. Retrieved from Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University: <https://www.povertycenter.columbia.edu/news-internal/2021/childallowance/cost-benefit-analysis>; National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2019). A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty. Washington, D.C.: The National

Notes on *Babies in the Budget 2025*

Sources

The majority of budget numbers in this book for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 can be found in the Congressional budget justifications provided by relevant federal agencies for FY 2025 and the Appendix of President Trump's FY 2026 budget. The Congressional budget justifications, Appendix, and summary tables also are the source for the President's budget request for FY 2026. We use actual outlays in the years where they are available and budget authority where they are not.

Methodology

For the purpose of this book, babies are defined as persons under age 3. While there are many federally supported programs entirely dedicated to babies and families with babies, there also are several in which babies constitute only a portion of the beneficiaries. We include these programs in the book and estimate the share of spending that supports children 0-3 (see below on multipliers).

The Overall Spending chapter tracks the share of federal spending on children 0-3 domestically and breaks out the share of spending by mandatory and discretionary categories. To find the share of federal spending for each chapter, we divide the babies' portion of federal spending in each category by the overall spending level for each fiscal year, which also includes the interest paid on the national debt. To determine the amount of money spent on babies, this book relies on agency reporting and data, including some data from the Census Bureau. For a handful of programs, this book relies on the work of the Urban Institute's Kids' Share 2024: Report on Federal Expenditures on Children Through 2024 and Future Projections. The methodology behind the program multipliers is as follows:

- For programs that exclusively benefit babies and families with babies, 100% of the funding level is considered babies' spending.
- For programs that do not limit their benefits to babies, the share of program funding that is considered babies' spending mirrors the agency's estimated percentage of program benefits that go to babies. For example, annual U.S. Department of Agriculture reports indicate the amount of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits going to babies of 6.58%. In other cases, we analyze Community Population Survey data to generate these estimates, such as for Veterans Benefits.
- For some programs, such as housing programs under the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), there is limited data related to expenditures on babies. In those cases, we estimate spending on babies as the proportion of babies participating in the program overall.
- For some other programs, very little data exists on demographic characteristics of beneficiaries. For these programs, we estimate the share of spending benefiting babies as the proportion of babies in the U.S.
- First Focus on Children relies on its own multipliers via agency data and reports for several programs not included in Kids' Share, including for Community Health Centers, the Centers for Disease Control School-Based HIV Program, Homeless Assistance Grants, the National Housing Trust Fund, the Indian Housing Block Grant, the Rural Rental Assistance Program, the Rural Housing Voucher Program, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Poison Control, Domestic Victims of Trafficking Grants, Healthy Transitions, Career and Technical Education Grants to States, the

Corporation for National and Community Service, Gallaudet University, National Science Foundation K-12 Programs, Safe Routes to School, and TRIO Programs.

- First Focus on Children also differs from the Urban Institute's Kids' Share in its estimates for spending on babies for the Children's Health Insurance Program, Disability Trust Fund benefits, Old Age and Survivors' Insurance Trust Fund benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Project-Based Rental Assistance, the Public Housing Operating Fund, Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, Healthy Start, Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Disability Compensation, Survivors' Pension Benefits, and coverage of tax credits. For instance, the Urban Institute utilizes microsimulation modeling of Community Population Survey data to estimate the number of babies participating in Project- and Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, while First Focus on Children uses data from HUD's "Picture of Subsidized Housing."
- First Focus on Children also cross-referenced spending levels with the National Low Income Housing Coalition for a few programs, such as the National Housing Trust Fund, Project-Based Rental Assistance, and the Public Housing Fund.
- *Babies in the Budget 2025* includes the mandatory spending for the refundable tax credits as programs that benefit babies. For FY 2025 and FY 2026, the mandatory outlays are estimates by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). However, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) goes to individuals with or without qualifying children or dependents. First Focus on Children utilized data published by the Internal Revenue Service that provides demographic breakdowns and spending of the refundable credit to determine the amount spent on the EITC for adults with dependents. The FY 2025 and FY 2026 funding levels are also OMB estimates.
- Every year, First Focus on Children works with our advocacy partners and others to review existing programs and determine whether to adjust our tracking.

Updates to Multipliers

As in past years, *Babies in the Budget 2025* updates multipliers for several programs based on new data, research, and analysis. As a result, the figures prior to FY 2025 may be different from prior iterations of the *Babies in the Budget*.

Presentation

For each program individually listed in the book, the spending level indicated is the total allocation from the federal budget. For those programs that are not entirely dedicated to babies, we use the estimated share of spending allocated to babies to calculate the total share of spending on babies overall and for each chapter.

Comparing spending levels over time, it is widely understood that the value of one dollar in 1920 is not the same as the value of one dollar in 2025. This is because prices for goods and services tend to increase over time. Inflation has important consequences for long-term economic comparisons. For example, in 2000, the federal government's total budget was \$1.8 trillion — over 800% greater than the \$195.6 billion it spent 30 years prior. It is important to recognize, however, that due to inflation, every dollar the government spent in 1970 had much greater purchasing power than it did in 2000, such that the nominal value of \$195.6 billion in 1970 translated to a real increase in value of roughly \$828 billion in 2000 (as measured by 1978 prices). Thus, the real overall increase in federal spending was closer to 100% — a major difference from the nominal shift of 800%.

That discrepancy is why economists distinguish between real value and nominal value, and it has important implications for *Babies in the Budget*. Because of inflation, a program that receives level funding in nominal terms from one year to the next can experience a cut in real terms, because costs are rising faster than the program's funding. Thus, adjusting for inflation is an important step in any fiscal analysis, even a relatively short-term one.

For each program listed, *Babies in the Budget* 2025 reports the nominal funding level and the real (inflation-adjusted) percent change from the prior year. This book adopts the projected inflation rates for FY 2025 and FY 2026 from the Congressional Budget Office's January 2025 report, *The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2025 to 2035*.

Tax Expenditures

Babies in the Budget 2025 continues to include the refundable portions of the Child Tax Credit, Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, and the Earned Income Tax Credit. The Treasury Department includes the refundable portion of the credits, the payment to the territories, and the payments where tax credit exceeds tax liability as mandatory spending, and we are therefore including the credits as mandatory spending programs for babies in the Income Support chapter.

Special Considerations Under the Second Trump Administration

The current presidential Administration provided significantly less information on budget figures than what is traditionally offered publicly. Because of this, we had to make several assumptions about how to fill in missing data. These assumptions include:

- For many (mainly smaller) programs, no information on funding was provided for FY 2025 and/or FY 2026. In these cases, we assume flat funding. These instances are indicated by **grayed-out** numbers in program funding charts.
- For some programs, no specific line item is listed for the specific program we track, but funding figures are listed for a broader umbrella of programs that includes the program we track. In these cases, we assume that the program makes up a constant proportion of funding within the broader umbrella of programs from year to year and assign its proportion of the funding for the broader umbrella of programs in missing years. In other words, we assume that the percent change in the smaller program is equal to the percent change of the broader umbrella of programs.
- We do not include rescissions and impoundment in the figures we record. In reality, the Trump Administration has used these mechanisms to withhold funding, so in many cases the reality on the ground for babies may be worse than what these numbers indicate.
- Many programs are consolidated in the President's proposed FY 2026 budget, while many others are eliminated. Both of these changes will show up as a zero in program funding charts. However, we mark the zeroes for eliminated programs in red. For consolidated programs, we explain where these programs are moved and where to find these consolidated funding streams in the book.

A close-up photograph of a young girl with blonde hair, smiling and holding a pink piggy bank shaped like a pig. She is wearing a blue dress with white polka dots. The text 'OVERALL SPENDING' is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif capital letters.

**OVERALL
SPENDING**



19.70%

Decrease in the Share of Federal Spending on Children under 3 from FY 2021 to FY 2025

OVERALL SPENDING ON CHILDREN UNDER 3

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 135.369 B | \$ 109.433 B | \$ 101.954 B | \$ 103.675 B | \$ 109.918 B | \$113.154 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 53.58% | -25.10% | -11.34% | -1.35% | 3.63% | 0.50% |
| Share of Total Spending | 1.98% | 1.84% | 1.65% | 1.53% | 1.59% | 1.61% |

The United States has long failed to invest in its children, devoting a meager percentage of all federal spending to their health and well-being. This chronic underfunding hits the nation's youngest children hardest: In Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, only 1.59% of all federal spending went toward supporting children under 3. Put simply, this means that for every \$100 the federal government spends, it invests just \$1.59 in infants, babies, and toddlers.

And even this low level of spending is misleading: when it comes to discretionary programs, which require Congress to proactively appropriate new funds every year, lawmakers invest just 96 cents for every \$100 of total discretionary investments. The President's FY 2026 budget proposal would cut discretionary investment in babies by another 17% from FY 2025 levels when adjusted for inflation.

By comparison, the United States currently spends \$13 of every \$100 just to service the national debt. It spends another \$13 on defense.¹

Babies in the Budget provides a comprehensive analysis of the share of spending allocated to children 0-3 across nearly 150 government programs in the federal budget. This analysis includes both mandatory and discretionary funding across nearly every federal department, representing numerous agencies and bureaus.

↑ **6.64%**

Real Percent Increase in Mandatory Funding from FY 2021 to FY 2025

MANDATORY SPENDING ON CHILDREN 0 TO 3

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 101.816 B | \$ 94.926 B | \$ 86.194 B | \$ 86.735 B | \$ 92.330 B | \$ 98.203 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 39.41% | -13.61% | -13.59% | -2.38% | 4.05% | 3.84% |
| Share of Total Spending | 2.11% | 2.50% | 2.29% | 2.08% | 2.25% | 2.29% |

↓ **53.17%**

Real Percent Decrease in Discretionary Funding from FY 2021 to FY 2025

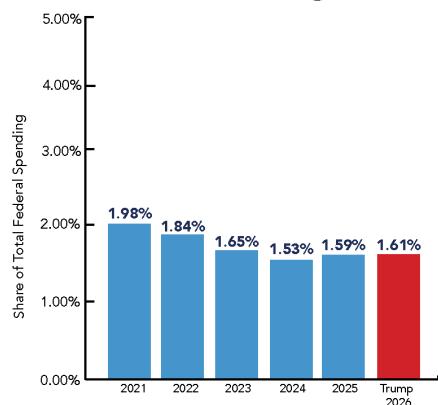
DISCRETIONARY SPENDING ON CHILDREN 0 TO 3

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 33.554 B | \$ 14.507 B | \$ 15.760 B | \$ 16.940 B | \$ 17.588 B | \$ 14.951 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 122.00% | -59.94% | 3.39% | 4.28% | 1.49% | -17.01% |
| Share of Total Spending | 2.05% | 0.87% | 0.90% | 0.99% | 0.96% | 0.88% |

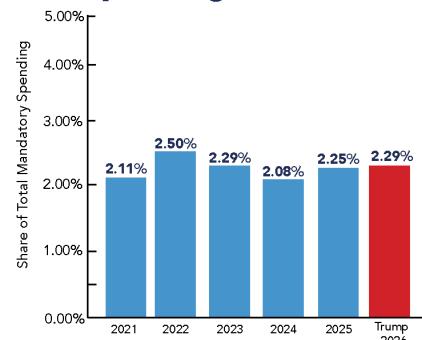
Since FY 2021, the share of federal spending devoted to infants and toddlers has declined by nearly 20%. This precipitous fall was driven by the elimination of several pandemic-era programs that served the needs of the nation's youngest children. These changes included the phase out of economic impact payments that provided cash to families, elimination of the Child Care Stabilization Fund, a reduction in the Child Care and Development Block Grant, a reduction in the maximum child tax credit (which was increased for parents with children under 6) as well as the removal of full refundability, which guaranteed the full credit for the lowest-income families, and the loss of expanded benefits in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). These programs benefited all people in the country, but disproportionately helped babies, as evidenced by the all-time high in the share of federal spending going to babies — 1.98% — reached in FY 2021.

Mandatory spending offers a small bright spot. An increase in mandatory spending, driven most notably by an increase in Medicaid, pushed the share of spending on babies up slightly in FY 2025, from 1.53% to 1.59%. This change is a testament to the importance of mandatory programs, which do not rely on annual funding decisions

Share of Total Federal Spending, Children 0-3



Share of Total Mandatory Spending, Children 0-3



by Congress, instead increasing in accordance with the needs of the population they serve.

The story is less rosy for discretionary spending, which fell from 0.99% to 0.96%, largely due to the continuing resolution passed by Congress that kept most of these programs flat-funded. In FY 2021, the share of discretionary spending on babies peaked at over 2%. Since then, babies' share of discretionary spending has fallen by more than half.

The President's FY 2026 Budget

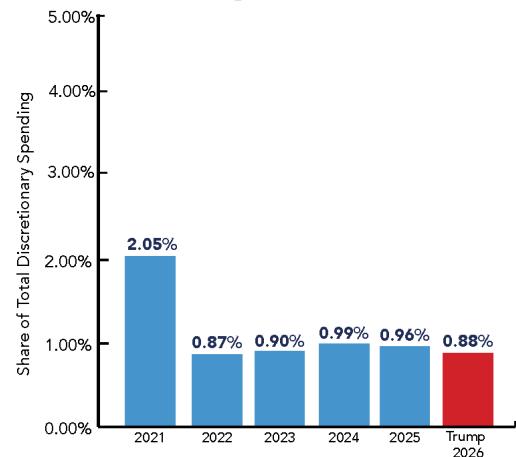
The President's proposed FY 2026 budget would dramatically worsen the situation for children under 3. The overall babies' share would increase, but this would again be driven exclusively by increases in mandatory programs, which the President's budget does not change. However, the President's proposal cuts babies' share of discretionary spending by more than 17% adjusted for inflation, sinking it to just 0.88%. The budget proposal would reduce overall discretionary spending significantly across-the-board for the whole population. The fact that babies' share still declines means that even in a world of a shrinking pie for all, babies are nonetheless disproportionately targeted for cuts.

These cuts would impact nearly every aspect of babies' well-being. The President's budget makes its largest cuts in housing, with Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, Project-Based Rental Assistance, and the Public Housing Fund all eliminated in favor of a State Rental Assistance Program that would have less federal oversight. On net, this consolidation would cut babies' housing support by \$1.475 billion. Other major programs targeted for cuts include the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, better known as WIC, Preschool Development Grants, Healthy Start, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Safe Motherhood/Infant Health Programs, and the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes.

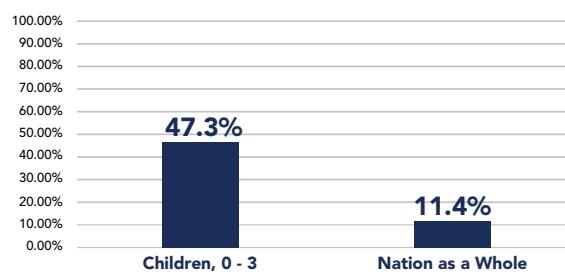
The Story Is Worse than the Numbers Show

As mentioned, the increase in mandatory spending is only a "relative" bright spot. Over the next decade, H.R. 1, the reconciliation package passed by Congress and signed into law in July 2025, will cut nearly \$1 trillion from Medicaid and nearly \$200 billion from SNAP, two of the top 5 programs in terms of total dollars invested in kids 0-3. Together, Medicaid and SNAP make up nearly 50% of all spending on babies across the federal government, while total federal spending on these programs accounts for just 11.4% of the budget as a whole, highlighting the disproportionate impact that cuts to these programs will inflict on babies. These cuts will

Share of Total Discretionary Spending, Children 0-3



Share of Spending that Comes from Medicaid and SNAP, FY 2025



not show up in the numbers until the bill’s provisions take hold over the next decade, but the consequences will be devastating for the nation’s youngest children.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that Medicaid provisions in H.R. 1 would cost \$911 billion over 10 years and cause 10 million people to lose health insurance.² First Focus on Children estimates that 6.6% of Medicaid spending goes to children under 3. Applying this share to the bill’s provisions delivers an estimated \$60.126 billion in cuts over a decade from babies’ health care support. Cuts to SNAP — a total of \$186 billion over 10 years — would cost babies an estimated \$12.239 billion.

1. Maag, E. (2025, December 12). Investing in Children: Benefits and where we go from here. First Focus on Children. <https://firstfocus.org/event/babies-in-the-budget-summit-2025/>
2. Euhus, R., Williams, E., Burns, A., & Rudowitz, R. (2025, July 23). Allocating CBO's estimates of federal Medicaid spending reductions across the states: Enacted reconciliation package. KFF. <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/allocating-cbos-estimates-of-federal-medicaid-spending-reductions-across-the-states-enacted-reconciliation-package/>

A woman in a blue shirt and green pants is kneeling on a light-colored rug, focused on playing with a wooden block toy. A young child with curly hair, wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt and a yellow bandana, is sitting on the rug, also interacting with the blocks. The background shows a wooden cabinet and a colorful patterned bag.

EARLY CHILDHOOD



69.50%

Decrease in Share of Federal Spending on Early Childhood from FY 2021 to FY 2025

| TOTAL SPENDING ON EARLY CHILDHOOD | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
| Spending Level | \$ 26.924 B | \$ 6.986 B | \$ 7.978 B | \$ 8.276 B | \$ 8.310 B | \$ 8.163 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 245.04% | -75.96% | 8.68% | 0.64% | -1.85% | -4.09% |
| Share of Total Spending | 0.39% | 0.12% | 0.13% | 0.12% | 0.12% | 0.12% |

Early childhood programs, including Early Head Start, home visiting, and child care, have immense benefits for young children, their families, and early educators. The opportunities children have during their early years play an essential role in reducing racial inequalities and directly impact their long-term health, well-being, and economic outcomes.¹ The evidence supporting high-quality early childhood investment is among the strongest in the social sciences. Investing in children during their most formative years is among the soundest financial decisions a country can make and ensures that children across the country receive the support they need to thrive.² Child care and other early learning programs also provide families with the opportunity to work or study; support an early learning workforce; and supply crucial infrastructure for the United States' economy.

Current funding levels are not meeting the need that children and their families have for early learning opportunities. Under current funding levels, Early Head Start can only serve 11% of eligible families, and both the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program can serve just 15% of families who qualify.

Overall Analysis

Funding for early childhood programs for children ages 0-3 fell by 1.85% between Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and FY 2025 adjusted for inflation. This loss in real dollars is driven exclusively by the flat funding of nearly every early childhood program, which failed to keep up with inflation. The only exception is MIECHV, which receives mandatory funding and therefore saw a \$47.2 million increase, thanks to a bipartisan reauthorization in 2022. However, this increase in one program is not enough to make up for the real cuts that all other early childhood programs have experienced. Early childhood programs for children ages 0-3 make up only 0.12% of total federal spending, despite their importance in children's lives and their proven value. Adjusted for inflation, funding for these programs fell by 74.15% between FY 2021 and FY 2025, due largely to the expiration of COVID-era funding.

CCDBG and Head Start have historically had strong, bipartisan support, and they have actually experienced some increases in funding in recent years. Despite this support and these past increases, even these programs have been cut in real dollars in FY 2025.

Program Spotlight

Child Care

Child care continues to be an enormous expense that many families cannot afford and that harbors disparities. Child care is least affordable and accessible for Black, Hispanic, and low-income working parents.³ In 2024, the cost to a family of child care for two children in a center was more than annual mortgage payments in 45 states and the District of Columbia, and the cost of child care for an infant at a center was more than in-state tuition at a public university in 41 states and D.C.⁴ Along with the lack of affordability for families looking to access high-quality early childhood resources, there is a critical shortage of early care educators. Poverty-level pay and a lack of professional development opportunities create difficulty in retaining early childhood educators, exacerbating child care shortages across the country. Researchers have found the early care and education workforce is compensated at lower rates than 97% of all professions.⁵

Despite the proven value of early learning programs and the demonstrated need for more child care resources, CCDBG was flat-funded in FY 2025, which resulted in a cut of 2.25% from FY 2024 when accounting for inflation. Flat funding may sound harmless and even fortunate in the current economic environment, but it creates cuts in real dollars and results in services lost for children and their families.

Overview of the President's FY 2026 Budget

The President's FY 2026 budget request would cut spending on early childhood for children ages 0-3 by 4.09% from FY 2025 when adjusted for inflation. This cut is driven by the proposed elimination of both the Preschool Development Grants (PDG), a cut of \$152.5 million, and the Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools (CCAMPIS) program, a cut of \$26.3 million. Child care is a significant priority for young children and their families. Elimination of these programs would come at a time when their services are needed more than ever.

The President's budget provides flat funding for CCDBG, Head Start, and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part C - Grants for Infants and Families, resulting in real cuts of 2.37%.

Looking Ahead

In addition to a decrease in overall funding for early learning programs, other threats surround these programs.

Both the House Labor, Health and Human Services FY 2026 Appropriations bill and the President's FY 2026 budget request would eliminate CCAMPIS, which provides funding to help parenting college students secure care for their children while they pursue their degree, and Preschool Development Grants (PDG), which are used by states to increase the quality and efficiency of their existing early learning programs. More than 20% of all undergraduate students are raising children, and even at current funding levels CCAMPIS can only serve a small fraction of eligible students. PDG assists states in data collection, research, infrastructure development, and other quality initiatives that improve the provision of child care. Head Start and Early Head Start have faced numerous challenges this year, including threatened elimination, a halt in grant payments, cuts to the Early Head Start/Head Start workforce at the Department of Health and Human Services, a directive that attempts to end services for immigrant children and families, and potential future rulemaking that could cut compensation for teachers. The Trump Administration's plans for Early Head Start and Head Start are unclear, and this uncertainty is likely to destabilize the program's workforce and services.

While the recently passed H.R. 1 spending bill did not specifically cut early childhood programs such as child care, the law's cuts to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will hurt the same families that need child care assistance, home visiting, and Early Head Start. Additionally, these cuts will harm child care professionals and their families: nearly one-third of child care professionals are insured by Medicaid, and 43% of early educator families use one or more economic security programs such as Medicaid and SNAP to help with their health, nutrition, and other needs. Cuts to programs that support the early learning workforce will make care less stable and available for children and their families. Additionally, H.R. 1 includes a Higher Education Act provision that will prohibit federal student loans from being used for programs whose graduates earn less money than a high school graduate in their state. This provision is expected to include early learning professionals, who work in high-skill, low-paying jobs. Placing further restrictions on the ability of these professionals to pursue education opportunities by limiting their access to federal student loans will only exacerbate the existing early learning workforce shortage.

Early Childhood Programs

In cases where the Administration did not provide data, First Focus on Children has assumed flat funding, represented by numbers in gray. Numbers in red reflect programs that have been zeroed out in the Trump Administration's proposed FY 2026 Budget.

34.75%
2021-25

Child Care Access Means Parents in School

Department: Education • Bureau: Higher Education
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 35%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 55.0 M | \$ 65.0 M | \$ 75.0 M | \$ 75.0 M | \$ 75.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 19.3 M | \$ 22.8 M | \$ 26.3 M | \$ 26.3 M | \$ 26.3 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 0.47% | 9.50% | 9.81% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

The Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program supports the participation of low-income parents in postsecondary education through the provision of campus-based child care services. Student parents make up more than 20% of all undergraduate students, and parenting students with access to reliable and affordable child care through CCAMPIS have a persistence rate of 75% in their studies.

Child Care and Development Fund

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 28%

11.33%
2021-25

Mandatory

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 3.151 B | \$ 3.238 B | \$ 3.550 B | \$ 3.550 B | \$ 3.550 B | \$ 3.550 B |
| Estimated Share To Babies | \$ 866.5 M | \$ 890.5 M | \$ 976.3 M | \$ 976.3 M | \$ 976.3 M | \$ 976.3 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 4.58% | -4.78% | 4.34% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

-84.24%
2021-25

Discretionary

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 54.838 B | \$ 6.165 B | \$ 8.021 B | \$ 8.746 B | \$ 8.746 B | \$ 8.746 B |
| Estimated Share To Babies | \$ 15.080 B | \$ 1.695 B | \$ 2.206 B | \$ 2.405 B | \$ 2.405 B | \$ 2.405 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 469.28% | -89.58% | 23.82% | 5.78% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The Child Care and Development Fund makes funding available to states, tribes, and territories to assist qualifying low-income families in obtaining child care so that parents can work or attend classes or training and includes both discretionary funding in the form of the Child Care and Development Block Grant as well as a mandatory Child Care Entitlement to States funding stream.

-100%
2021-25

Child Care Stabilization Fund

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 28%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 23.975 B | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 6.713 B | \$ 0.0 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | N/A | -100.00% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) included a \$24 billion investment in a new Child Care Stabilization Fund. More than 220,000 child care programs in the United States received ARP stabilization support, impacting as many as 9.6 million children, and keeping programs open and families working.

11.79%
2021-25

Head Start and Early Head Start

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 31%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 10.848 B | \$ 11.037 B | \$ 11.997 B | \$ 12.272 B | \$ 12.272 B | \$ 12.272 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 3.360 B | \$ 3.418 B | \$ 3.715 B | \$ 3.801 B | \$ 3.801 B | \$ 3.801 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -1.04% | -5.73% | 3.45% | -0.76% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

Head Start provides comprehensive child development services for economically disadvantaged 3- and 4-year-old children to prepare them to succeed in school, while Early Head Start programs serve low-income infants and toddlers under the age of 3. In providing this demographic with high quality preschool, Head Start and Early Head Start narrows the gap between disadvantaged and more privileged children as they enter kindergarten.

10.74%
2021-25

IDEA C - Grants for Infants and Families

Department: Education • Bureau: Special Education
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 100%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 481.9 M | \$ 496.3 M | \$ 540.0 M | \$ 540.0 M | \$ 540.0 M | \$ 540.0 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -2.20% | -4.56% | 3.55% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C (IDEA C) Grants for Infants and Families assist states in implementing statewide systems of coordinated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary, interagency programs and making early intervention services available to children with disabilities aged birth through 2.

83.09%
2021-25

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Children: 100%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 8.1 M | \$ 10.0 M | \$ 15.0 M | \$ 15.0 M | \$ 15.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 11.97% | 14.45% | 42.75% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

The Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health grants, first appropriated in FY 2018, support infant and early childhood mental health promotion, intervention, and treatment as authorized in the 21st Century Cures Act.



Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Visiting Program

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Health Resources and Services Administration
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 72%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 370.0 M | \$ 446.0 M | \$ 500.0 M | \$ 518.7 M | \$ 565.8 M | \$ 613.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 266.4 M | \$ 321.1 M | \$ 360.0 M | \$ 373.4 M | \$ 407.4 M | \$ 441.3 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -4.83% | 11.69% | 6.69% | 0.63% | 6.63% | 5.77% |

The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Visiting Program provides federal funding for home visiting programs. Home visiting connects expectant parents, new caregivers, and their young children with a home visitor who meets regularly and develops a relationship with a family to strengthen the well-being of caregivers and children and connect families to community resources. Home visiting can be provided by infant and early childhood professionals, social workers, parents, doulas, nurses, mental health professionals, and other trained individuals. Home visiting models vary in the ages of children served, but can start prenatally and generally end by school entry.



National Early Child Care Collaboratives

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 27%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 4.0 M | \$ 4.0 M | \$ 5.0 M | \$ 5.0 M | \$ 5.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 1.1 M | \$ 1.1 M | \$ 1.4 M | \$ 1.4 M | \$ 1.4 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.19% | -7.34% | 18.96% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

National Early Child Care Collaboratives are grants aimed at spreading sustainable policy and practice improvements in early care and education programs to prevent childhood obesity. These grants help early childhood providers improve nutrition, breastfeeding support, physical activity, and screen time for young children.



Preschool Development Grants

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 48%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 280.0 M | \$ 290.0 M | \$ 315.0 M | \$ 315.0 M | \$ 315.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 135.5 M | \$ 140.4 M | \$ 152.5 M | \$ 152.5 M | \$ 152.5 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -1.43% | -4.03% | 3.37% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

Preschool Development Grants are competitive grants that fund states to strengthen early childhood systems to prepare all children to enter kindergarten by investing in the early learning workforce, identifying opportunities to expand access to high-quality early learning programs, supporting a comprehensive and mixed-delivery system of early learning, expanding parent and family supports, and promoting children's healthy development and well-being.

1. Center on the Developing Child (2007). The Science of Early Childhood Development (InBrief). Retrieved from www.developingchild.harvard.edu
2. First Focus on Children. "Issue Brief: Research Confirms That Early Learning Investments Increase Benefits to Children, Lower Costs to Taxpayers." June 2025. <https://firstfocus.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Early-Learning-Investments-Benefit-Kids-and-Taxpayers.pdf>
3. Maura Baldiga, Pamela Joshi, Erin Hardy, Dolores Acevedo-Garcia. "Data-for-Equity Research Brief: Child Care Affordability for Working Parents." Institute for Child, Youth, and Family Policy, Brandeis University. November 2018 https://www.diversitydatakids.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/child-care_update.pdf
4. Child Care Aware of America. "Child Care in America: 2024 Price and Supply." <https://www.childcareaware.org/pricelandscape24/#PriceofCare>
5. McLean, C., Austin, L.J.E., Powell, A., Jaggi, S., Kim, Y., Knight, J., Muñoz, S., & Schlieber, M. (2024). Early Childhood Workforce Index – 2024. Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, University of California, Berkeley. <https://cscce.berkeley.edu/workforce-index-2024/>.



HEALTH



47.71%

Increase in Share of Federal Spending on Health
from FY 2021 to FY 2025

| | TOTAL SPENDING ON HEALTH | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
| Spending Level | \$ 34.454 B | \$ 40.167 B | \$ 45.528 B | \$ 46.721 B | \$ 51.502 B | \$ 54.987 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 5.11% | 8.02% | 7.87% | -0.44% | 7.75% | 4.24% |
| Share of Total Spending | 0.51% | 0.68% | 0.74% | 0.69% | 0.75% | 0.78% |

The health and development of children under 3 depend on comprehensive protections and supports that work together during their earliest years. Access to quality health care, safe pregnancies and births for moms and babies, strong public health measures, and a clean environment all play vital roles in ensuring optimal development when 80% of the brain develops by age 3 and neural connections form at a rate of more than one million per second.¹

Health care coverage is essential for early childhood development. Research shows that having health care coverage improves babies' physical and mental health and promotes greater educational attainment and better financial outcomes as they grow into children and then adults. In tandem, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) are indispensable pillars of children's health coverage in the United States, providing access to services including frequent well-child visits, vaccinations, dental and vision care, and specialty care. Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) child health benefit is specifically designed to help infants, babies, and toddlers get the care they need, when they need it, by providing coverage for services that reduce chronic conditions and disabilities before they become more costly to address.

Maternal health is also a harbinger of children's health and well-being from the earliest stages. Rates of infant and maternal mortality in the United States are some of the highest and most disparate among wealthy countries. Between 2021 and 2022, the infant mortality rate rose 3%, the first increase in 20 years, and rates are rising fastest in states that have implemented abortion bans.^{2,3} Maternal mental and physical health, and the programs and funding levels that support it, intrinsically affect the health and well-being of babies.

Public health initiatives — such as vaccination programs and drowning prevention programs — are essential to safeguarding babies' health and well-being. These efforts prevent disease, reduce injury, and create safer environments in which babies can grow and thrive. Vaccines alone have saved millions of young lives by protecting against deadly but preventable illnesses, while evidence-based drowning prevention programs effectively address the number one cause of death among babies and children under 3. By addressing health risks before they cause harm, public health initiatives not only protect individual children but also strengthen entire communities, reduce health care costs, and lay the foundation for healthier, more productive futures.

Every child, regardless of race, income, or location, deserves to live in a world free from environmental hazards, yet pollutants, climate-related disasters, and environmental injustices affect nearly every child around the globe. The American Academy of Pediatrics estimates that babies and young children bear nearly 90% of the harms from climate-related disease.⁴ Children's unique physiology and behavior make them more vulnerable than adults to pollutants, pesticides, and other contaminants — they drink more water, eat more food, and breathe more air in proportion to their body weight, resulting in greater toxin exposure relative to their size. This means that small children and babies, especially under the age of 5, are even more susceptible to environmental pollutants and contaminants. These factors put them at heightened risk from threats such as air and water pollution and toxic substances, with children of color, those in low-income communities, and other marginalized groups disproportionately exposed to pollution, climate change impacts, poor environmental quality, and the resulting health consequences.⁵

Overall Analysis

Inflation-adjusted investment in health programs serving children under 3 increased 7.75% between Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and FY 2025. But it is important to note that this spending represents just 0.75% of the entire FY 2025 federal budget.

Although the figures suggest modest improvement, a closer review indicates that the increases in health spending on babies are driven almost entirely by Medicaid, which reflects automatic increases in spending due to factors such as population growth or increased participation rather than policy changes. Without Medicaid, health spending for babies would increase only 0.83% adjusted for inflation — or less than 1 cent for every dollar spent — and would total just 0.10% of all federal spending.

The increase to Medicaid results from natural program growth, not new or substantive policy action. Additionally, this growth includes investments initiated by the Biden Administration and does not reflect recent policy changes, such as the enactment of H.R. 1, which will significantly reduce federal investment in health programs critical to babies in the coming years. Beyond health care coverage, President Trump's FY 2026 budget proposal threatens cuts to other programs that affect children's health, especially for those under 3, including Children's Hospital Graduate Medical

Education, Emergency Medical Services for Children, drowning prevention, community health centers, cancer cluster monitoring and screening, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Grants, Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, Healthy Start, Safe Motherhood/Infant Health Programs, Universal Newborn Hearing Screening, and Gun Violence Prevention Research.

Program Spotlight

Healthy Start

President Trump's proposed FY 2026 budget for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) would eliminate funding for all Healthy Start and Safe Motherhood/Infant Health Programs. Established in 1991 by President George H. W. Bush as a presidential initiative, Healthy Start improves maternal health and reduces infant deaths in communities with rates of infant mortality at least 1.5 times the national average. The Safe Motherhood/Infant Health Programs support initiatives such as state maternal mortality review committees, the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, the Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Registry, and perinatal quality collaboratives.

At a time when the U.S. infant and maternal mortality rate outstrips that of nearly every other wealthy nation, these programs save lives by building community-based, family-centered initiatives to strengthen maternal and infant health systems in high-risk areas, and collect and track data that is vital to understanding solutions to our maternal and infant mortality crisis.

Emergency Medical Services for Children

The President's budget would eliminate the entire \$24.3 million allocation for the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program—a federal initiative designed to ensure emergency departments and EMS providers can meet the unique physiological, developmental, and emotional needs of sick and injured children. EMSC supports pediatric-specific equipment, specialized training, and coordinated protocols so that children in crisis receive the right care immediately, rather than being treated as small adults.

Removing this critical funding will erode pediatric readiness in hospitals and EMS systems nationwide, leading to preventable harm. Current gaps in preparedness already contribute to more than 7,600 childhood deaths in emergency settings each year. Improving readiness could save more than 2,100 young lives annually.⁶ Cutting EMSC jeopardizes every child's chance of surviving severe illness or trauma.

Overview of the President's FY 2026 Budget

President Trump's FY 2026 budget request would decrease health spending on children under 3, excluding Medicaid, by 7.41%. Even more alarming is that discretionary health spending on children under 3 would fall by 43.83% under the proposal. This figure suggests that babies would be disproportionately impacted by these cuts to critical programs.

While Medicaid and CHIP spending would increase over FY 2025 figures, these increases pale in comparison to the nearly \$1 trillion in cuts made to the programs under H.R. 1, signed into law in July 2025.

The President's FY 2026 budget proposes significant cuts to programs impacting infant and maternal health. As highlighted above, the President's proposal would eliminate funding for Healthy

Start, as well as Safe Motherhood/Infant Health Programs and Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, totaling cuts of over \$270 million. Additionally, the President's budget would cut funding for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant.

The President's FY 2026 budget proposal would keep funding flat for Screening and Treatment for Maternal Depression and the Innovation in Maternal Health Program, which would mean cuts to these programs in real dollars.

The President's FY 2026 budget also would completely eliminate programs that are vital for preventing harm to children under 3, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Drowning Prevention program, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) program, and the Trevor's Law program (which helps monitor and prevent cancer in children). The FY 2026 budget would also eliminate the Health Resources and Services Administration's Heritable Disorders program and Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program. The share of these cuts attributable to children under 3 is an estimated \$34.255 million dollars.

Additionally, the President's FY 2026 budget would make significant funding cuts to programs dedicated to treating autism, birth defects, and other developmental disorders, totaling an additional \$33.7 million in cuts for children under 3.

The President's FY 2026 budget also would eliminate funding for programs dedicated to protecting babies from lead poisoning, climate-related disease, and asthma. The cuts to these programs, some of which have been in operation for more than 30 years, would total \$58 million.

The President's budget also proposes cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency's Risks from Indoor Air program and its Superfund Cleanup program, which would be slashed by roughly 73%.

Looking Ahead

President Trump signed H.R. 1 into law on July 4, 2025, cutting nearly \$1 trillion from Medicaid and CHIP over the next decade and putting coverage for at least 10 million people at risk, including 40% of all babies born in the U.S. and millions of infants and toddlers who rely on the programs for newborn care, well-child check-ups, and developmental screenings.⁷ The law weakens key protections for children by shortening retroactive eligibility for children and pregnant women, limiting states' ability to support pediatric providers through provider taxes and state-directed payments, restricting immigrant eligibility, and adding work-reporting rules that will drive many families off coverage. More frequent eligibility checks and higher cost-sharing will only add to families' health and financial strain.

These cuts will hurt children of color, those with disabilities, and families in small towns and rural areas the most, since they depend disproportionately on Medicaid and CHIP. In rural America, the \$50 billion rural health transformation grant program touted by supporters of H.R. 1 is far outweighed by \$1 trillion in Medicaid cuts, threatening more than 400 rural hospitals with closure and forcing the rest to cut back services vital to children under 3. Beyond immediate coverage losses, H.R. 1 undermines Medicaid's proven role as an anti-poverty tool that gives children the foundation of health they need to succeed in school and beyond. Undermining this foundation now will cost families and the country far more in the long run.

Maternal mortality rates have declined from their peak during the COVID-19 pandemic, and 49

states and the District of Columbia have now expanded their postpartum Medicaid coverage to 12 months. However, the United States still ranks among the highest in maternal and infant mortality rates of all wealthy countries, and those rates vary widely based on race. In 2023, the maternal mortality rate for Black women was more than three times the rate of white women, four times the rate of Hispanic women, and nearly five times the rate of Asian women.⁸ Recent years of flat funding for programs that improve rates of maternal and infant mortality, including Healthy Start, Screening and Treatment for Maternal Depression, and Safe Motherhood/Infant Health Programs, have cut the funding going to those programs in real dollars. The President's proposed FY 2026 budget would create further and drastic cuts. Without continued and consistent funding to further reduce rates of infant and maternal mortality, these numbers are likely to increase and children and their families will suffer.

Drowning is the No.1 cause of death in children 0-3. The CDC's Division of Injury Prevention provides the best data and funding available for drowning prevention. Not only does the President's budget propose eliminating drowning prevention work at the CDC, the Trump Administration has already terminated the entire staff.⁹ This office, created in response to a spike in drownings during the COVID-19 pandemic, was the only source of national drowning data in the country and provided free swimming lessons to children most at-risk of drowning, as some minority children and children with autism are 160 times more likely to drown than their peers. These proposed cuts would end an effective and life-saving program that is still desperately needed.

Congenital abnormalities — diseases that children are born with — are the second leading cause of death in children aged 0-3, and the leading cause of death for infants under 1 year old. The Trump Administration, and especially Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., have focused their health agenda on chronic disease and autism in children, yet they have proposed cutting \$353.6 million dollars from efforts to collect data, perform research, and develop better treatments and practices for children with congenital abnormalities across the department. These programs include Autism and Other Developmental Disorders; Heritable Disorders; Birth Defects, Developmental Disabilities, Disability and Health; and funding for the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. These cuts would completely shutter almost all the mechanisms by which the federal government can actually help children with congenital abnormalities.

Lastly, although the President's budget has proposed flat funding for the Vaccines for Children program, which is a cut in real dollars, the Administration and Secretary Kennedy have already reduced families' access to getting their children vaccinated by making false claims about vaccine safety and unscientific changes to the child immunization schedule.¹⁰ Vaccines have effectively kept infectious diseases out of the top causes of death in children under 3, but they can only protect children as a whole, and especially those who are unable to get vaccines, if enough people are vaccinated. In 2025, there have been at least 1596 cases of measles — 92% of them in unvaccinated people — and three measles-related deaths, all in children. This is a significant outbreak given that measles was declared eliminated in 2000. Distrust in vaccines continues to rise, which will likely decrease the vaccination rates among infants, babies, and toddlers.

The Trump Administration has proposed more than \$70 million in cuts to babies' funding for environmental health, which would reduce the government's capacity to protect children from active threats of lead, poor indoor air quality, and asthma and expose them to escalating climate risks and increasing levels of toxic waste from Superfund sites. In addition to these cuts, the EPA

has rescinded the landmark 2009 declaration that greenhouse gases and the climate crisis endanger public health, effectively revoking the agency's authority to regulate key sources of pollution.¹¹ The United States had made progress toward climate- and pollution-related goals laid out by the Paris Accords and previous administrations, progress that will be reversed by these policy changes. The world that children are growing up in is becoming increasingly more polluted and more harmful to their growing bodies and minds.

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Health Programs

In cases where the Administration did not provide data, First Focus on Children has assumed flat funding, represented by numbers in gray. Numbers in red reflect programs that have been zeroed out in the Trump Administration's proposed FY 2026 Budget.

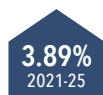


Adverse Childhood Experiences

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 5.0 M | \$ 7.0 M | \$ 9.0 M | \$ 9.0 M | \$ 9.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 755.0 K | \$ 1.1 M | \$ 1.4 M | \$ 1.4 M | \$ 1.4 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 21.02% | 29.72% | 22.36% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can have a tremendous impact on future violence victimization and perpetration, and lifelong health and opportunity. CDC works to understand ACEs and prevent them.

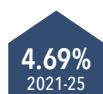


Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 4%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 78.0 M | \$ 78.0 M | \$ 85.0 M | \$ 81.6 M | \$ 82.0 M | \$ 78.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 3.1 M | \$ 3.1 M | \$ 3.4 M | \$ 3.2 M | \$ 3.3 M | \$ 3.1 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -1.53% | -7.34% | 3.73% | -6.87% | -1.80% | -7.13% |

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry protects communities, including children, from harmful health effects related to exposure to natural and human-made hazardous substances by responding to environmental health emergencies; investigating emerging environmental health threats; conducting research on the health impacts of hazardous waste sites; and building capabilities of and providing actionable guidance to state and local health partners.



Autism and Other Developmental Disorders Initiative

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 42%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 53.2 M | \$ 54.3 M | \$ 56.3 M | \$ 56.3 M | \$ 56.3 M | \$ 38.2 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 22.3 M | \$ 22.8 M | \$ 23.7 M | \$ 23.7 M | \$ 23.7 M | \$ 16.1 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -1.63% | -5.32% | -1.33% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -33.73% |

The Autism and Other Developmental Disorders Initiative supports surveillance, early detection, education, and intervention activities on autism and other developmental disorders.

21.72%
2021-25

Birth Defects, Developmental Disabilities, Disability and Health

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 54%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 167.3 M | \$ 177.1 M | \$ 205.6 M | \$ 206.1 M | \$ 206.1 M | \$ 157.8 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 90.4 M | \$ 95.7 M | \$ 111.1 M | \$ 111.4 M | \$ 111.4 M | \$ 85.3 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 0.72% | -1.93% | 10.49% | -2.75% | -2.25% | -25.23% |

Birth Defects, Developmental Disabilities, Disability and Health aims to provide a national focus for the prevention of secondary conditions in persons within selected disability domains, including mobility, personal care, communication, and learning. The program also supports research projects to understand secondary conditions and measure the impact of environment on the lives of persons with disabilities.

-43.22%
2021-25

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 670.0 M | \$ 315.0 M | \$ 385.0 M | \$ 385.0 M | \$ 385.0 M | \$ 385.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 20.1 M | \$ 9.5 M | \$ 11.6 M | \$ 11.6 M | \$ 11.6 M | \$ 11.6 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 224.33% | -56.44% | 16.32% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) are designed to ensure access to coordinated comprehensive behavioral health care. CCBHCs are required to serve anyone who requests care for mental health or substance use, regardless of their ability to pay, place of residence, or age — including developmentally appropriate care for children and youth.

-1.18%
2021-25

Child Maltreatment

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 7.3 M | \$ 7.2 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 1.1 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.19% | -7.34% | -4.83% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.88% |

The Child Maltreatment chart represents the budget set aside for child maltreatment under the Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence program within the Injury Prevention and Control initiative at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

97.64%
2021-25

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 1.5 M | \$ 2.0 M | \$ 3.0 M | \$ 3.0 M | \$ 3.0 M | \$ 3.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 226.5 K | \$ 302.0 K | \$ 453.0 K | \$ 453.0 K | \$ 453.0 K | \$ 450.6 K |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 45.22% | 23.54% | 42.75% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.88% |

The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention budget set aside falls under the Division of Violence Prevention (DVP) in the CDC Injury Center.

-1.18%
2021-25

Childhood Cancer Data Initiative

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: National Institutes of Health
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 50.0 M | \$ 50.0 M | \$ 46.4 M | \$ 50.0 M | \$ 50.0 M | \$ 50.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 7.5 M | \$ 7.5 M | \$ 7.0 M | \$ 7.5 M | \$ 7.5 M | \$ 7.5 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.19% | -7.34% | -11.71% | 4.57% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The Childhood Cancer Data Initiative focuses on the critical need to collect, analyze, and share data to address childhood cancers. The initiative supports childhood cancer research and aims to make it easier for researchers to share data and have access to data from each of the children diagnosed with cancer each year. The initiative was first proposed in the President's FY 2020 budget, which requested \$50 million per year over 10 years. FY 2020 marked the first year the program was funded.

-1.18%
2021-25

Childhood Cancer STAR Act

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: National Institutes of Health
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 30.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 4.5 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.19% | -7.34% | -4.83% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

This program advances childhood, adolescent, and young adult cancer research, enhances childhood cancer surveillance, and supports survivors and those affected by childhood cancer.

29.45%
2021-25

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 38.9 M | \$ 41.0 M | \$ 51.0 M | \$ 51.0 M | \$ 51.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 5.9 M | \$ 6.2 M | \$ 7.7 M | \$ 7.7 M | \$ 7.7 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 1.87% | -2.42% | 18.38% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program works with states to monitor childhood blood lead levels to prevent lead poisoning and help those who have elevated blood lead levels by assuring appropriate follow-up and linkage to services. The program also supports state and local efforts to collect vital lead data that enables them to target and implement primary prevention and response activities.

-24.19%
2021-25

Children and Other Sensitive Populations Agency Coordination

Department: Environmental Protection Agency • Bureau: Office of Children's Health Protection
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 8.3 M | \$ 6.2 M | \$ 6.5 M | \$ 6.3 M | \$ 6.4 M | \$ 6.4 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 1.2 M | \$ 937.1 K | \$ 978.9 K | \$ 951.5 K | \$ 952.5 K | \$ 952.5 K |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 29.04% | -30.07% | -0.58% | -5.71% | -2.14% | -2.37% |

The EPA coordinates and advances the protection of children's environmental health through regulatory development, science policy, program implementation, communication, and effective results measurement.

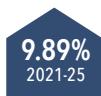


Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 7%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 16.093 B | \$ 16.613 B | \$ 17.588 B | \$ 20.669 B | \$ 21.332 B | \$ 22.115 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 1.062 B | \$ 1.096 B | \$ 1.161 B | \$ 1.364 B | \$ 1.408 B | \$ 1.460 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -7.70% | -4.35% | 0.75% | 14.01% | 0.88% | 1.21% |

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is a joint federal and state initiative that provides low-cost health coverage to children in families whose incomes are too high to qualify for Medicaid but too low to afford private insurance. Thanks to CHIP, over 7 million children have access to quality, affordable health care coverage.

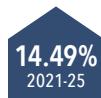


Clean Air and Climate: Climate Protection

Department: Environmental Protection Agency • Bureau: Office of Air and Radiation
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 98.7 M | \$ 107.0 M | \$ 109.3 M | \$ 109.8 M | \$ 109.8 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 3.3 M | \$ 3.6 M | \$ 3.6 M | \$ 3.7 M | \$ 3.7 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -13.44% | 0.45% | -2.81% | -2.55% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

The Climate Protection program supports implementation and compliance with greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty and heavy-duty vehicles, one aspect of tackling the climate crisis.



Clean Air and Climate: Federal Support for Air Quality Management

Department: Environmental Protection Agency • Bureau: Office of Air and Radiation
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 139.7 M | \$ 157.4 M | \$ 159.0 M | \$ 165.6 M | \$ 161.8 M | \$ 143.3 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 4.7 M | \$ 5.3 M | \$ 5.3 M | \$ 5.5 M | \$ 5.4 M | \$ 4.8 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.98% | 4.41% | -3.83% | 1.03% | -4.49% | -13.56% |

The Federal Support for Air Quality Management program supports development of State Implementation Plans through modeling and other tools and assists states in implementing, attaining, maintaining, and enforcing the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for criteria pollutants. The program also supports development and provision of information, training, and tools to assist state, tribal, and local agencies, as well as communities, to reduce air toxics emissions and risks specific to their local areas.



Climate and Health Program

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 10.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 333.0 K | \$ 334.0 K | \$ 334.0 K | \$ 334.0 K | \$ 334.0 K | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.49% | -7.06% | -4.83% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

The CDC's Climate and Health Program (CHP) directly supports state, tribal, local, and territorial public health agencies to prepare for specific health impacts of a changing climate. The CHP focuses on the public health-related aspects of climate extremes, including ways to reduce health risks by seeking to establish and use evidence-based interventions targeting the most vulnerable populations.

Community Health Centers

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Health Resources and Services Administration
Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 5%

| Mandatory | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 2021-25 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
| Spending Level | \$ 11.600 B | \$ 4.000 B | \$ 3.905 B | \$ 5.346 B | \$ 3.186 B | \$ 4.260 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 526.6 M | \$ 181.6 M | \$ 177.3 M | \$ 242.7 M | \$ 144.7 M | \$ 193.4 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 111.10% | -68.05% | -7.08% | 32.80% | -41.74% | 30.53% |

| Discretionary | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 2021-25 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
| Spending Level | \$ 1.554 B | \$ 1.748 B | \$ 1.858 B | \$ 1.738 B | \$ 1.738 B | \$ 1.738 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 70.6 M | \$ 79.3 M | \$ 84.3 M | \$ 78.9 M | \$ 78.9 M | \$ 78.9 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -31.78% | 4.20% | 1.16% | -9.25% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

For more than 40 years, the federal government has supported efforts to ensure the availability of high-quality health care services for low-income children and adults in communities across the nation. Today, the Community Health Centers (CHC) program continues this tradition by providing care regardless of ability to pay to those who are underserved by America's health care system. Children under the age of 18 represent roughly 30% of CHC patients. In 2010, the Affordable Care Act established the Community Health Center Fund (CHCF) to create a mandatory funding stream to supplement discretionary federal support for CHCs.

Community Mental Health Services Block Grant

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
• Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 4%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 757.1 M | \$ 920.1 M | \$ 986.5 M | \$ 986.5 M | \$ 986.5 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 32.1 M | \$ 39.0 M | \$ 41.8 M | \$ 41.8 M | \$ 41.8 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 1.44% | 12.61% | 2.04% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

In the President's FY 2026 budget, the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant is absorbed into the Behavioral Health Innovation Block Grant.

Developmental Delays

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: National Institutes of Health
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|----------|---------|------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 10.0 M | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 1.5 M | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | N/A | N/A | N/A | -100.00% | N/A | N/A |

For research on developmental delays, including speech and language development delays in infants and toddlers.

NEW
SINCE
2021

Drowning Prevention

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 40%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 0.00 | \$ 1.0 M | \$ 2.0 M | \$ 2.0 M | \$ 2.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 0.00 | \$ 400.0 K | \$ 800.0 K | \$ 800.0 K | \$ 800.0 K | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | N/A | N/A | 90.34% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

The CDC's Drowning Prevention program promotes data-driven prevention strategies for drowning, focused on children and other groups at increased risk.

7.99%
2021-25

Emergency Medical Services for Children

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 22.3 M | \$ 22.3 M | \$ 24.3 M | \$ 24.3 M | \$ 24.3 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 3.4 M | \$ 3.4 M | \$ 3.7 M | \$ 3.7 M | \$ 3.7 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.48% | -7.06% | 3.69% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program is a federal initiative to help ensure children receive specialized and effective emergency care. It provides funding, training, and resources so hospitals and EMS teams are equipped to handle pediatric emergencies, aiming to reduce serious injury and death among children nationwide.

17.21%
2021-25

Ensure Safe Drinking Water: Drinking Water Programs

Department: Environmental Protection Agency • Bureau: Office of Water
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 101.3 M | \$ 121.4 M | \$ 115.4 M | \$ 127.2 M | \$ 120.1 M | \$ 128.9 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 3.4 M | \$ 4.1 M | \$ 3.9 M | \$ 4.2 M | \$ 4.0 M | \$ 4.3 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -6.86% | 11.05% | -9.50% | 6.93% | -7.71% | 4.74% |

The Ensure Safe Drinking Water program is responsible for implementing the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure safe drinking water for approximately 320 million Americans, 22.1% being children. The increase in funding will support national drinking water priorities, including addressing lead and emerging contaminants such as PFAS; improving drinking water system resilience to natural hazards, including climate change; reducing human threats by enhancing cybersecurity; and improving drinking water and water quality across the nation, especially in rural, small, underserved, and overburdened communities across the country.

-1.18%
2021-25

Environmental Health Laboratory: Newborn Screening/Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Diseases (SCID)

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 100%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 1.3 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.19% | -7.34% | -4.83% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

CDC's Division of Laboratory Sciences develops lab tests and reference materials for SCID and is working to advance screening for this condition in newborns nationwide.

Environmental Health Laboratory: Newborn Screening Quality Assurance Program

15.29%
2021-25

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 100%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 18.0 M | \$ 19.0 M | \$ 21.0 M | \$ 21.0 M | \$ 21.0 M | \$ 21.0 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 2.51% | -2.20% | 5.19% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

CDC manages the Newborn Screening Quality Assurance Program to enhance and maintain the quality and accuracy of newborn screening results. The program provides training, consultation, proficiency testing, guidelines, and materials to state public health laboratories and other labs responsible for newborn screening in the U.S. and abroad.

Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (Formerly National Children's Study)

-1.18%
2021-25

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: National Institutes of Health (Office of the Director)
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 180.0 M | \$ 120.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 27.2 M | \$ 18.1 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.19% | -7.34% | -4.83% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -34.91% |

The Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes program aims to determine what factors give children the highest probability of achieving the best health outcomes over their lifetime and seeks to investigate the longitudinal impact of prenatal, perinatal, and postnatal environmental exposures on pediatric health outcomes with high public health impact.

Environmental Justice

855.41%
2021-25

Department: Environmental Protection Agency • Bureau: Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 10.3 M | \$ 11.8 M | \$ 109.3 M | \$ 117.2 M | \$ 100.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 345.5 K | \$ 395.4 K | \$ 3.7 M | \$ 3.9 M | \$ 3.3 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 4.81% | 6.05% | 779.05% | 3.98% | -16.60% | -100.00% |

The communities hardest hit by pollution and climate change are most often communities of color, Indigenous communities, rural communities, and economically disadvantaged communities. The Environmental Justice program greatly enhances the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to develop, manage, and award new competitive grants to reduce the historically disproportionate health impacts of pollution in communities with environmental justice concerns.

Firearm Injury and Mortality Prevention Research

-1.18%
2021-25

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 5%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 12.5 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 625.0 K | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.19% | -7.34% | -4.83% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

Firearm Injury and Mortality Prevention Research funding takes a comprehensive, evidence-based research approach to reducing firearm-related suicides, violent crime, and accidental shootings, which include impacts on children.

12.28%
2021-25

Healthy Start

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 100%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 127.6 M | \$ 131.5 M | \$ 145.0 M | \$ 145.0 M | \$ 145.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -1.55% | -4.54% | 4.95% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

The Healthy Start initiative aims to eliminate disparities in prenatal infant and maternal health by enhancing the community health care service system and improving access to comprehensive prenatal and women's health services, particularly for women and infants at higher risk for poor health outcomes.

9.28%
2021-25

Heritable Disorders

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 100%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 18.9 M | \$ 19.6 M | \$ 20.9 M | \$ 20.9 M | \$ 20.9 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 2.23% | -4.03% | 1.62% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

The Heritable Disorders program focuses on reducing the morbidity and mortality caused by heritable disorders in newborns and children by supporting state and local public health agencies' ability to provide screening, counseling, and health care services.

1.42%
2021-25

Hospitals Promoting Breastfeeding

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 100%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 9.5 M | \$ 9.8 M | \$ 9.8 M | \$ 9.8 M | \$ 9.8 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 2.19% | -4.90% | -4.83% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

Hospitals Promoting Breastfeeding funding supports breastfeeding families in maternity care settings, communities, and workplaces.

33.04%
2021-25

Indoor Air: Radon Program

Department: Environmental Protection Agency • Bureau: Office of Air and Radiation
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 2.3 M | \$ 3.1 M | \$ 2.9 M | \$ 2.8 M | \$ 3.1 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 78.0 K | \$ 102.9 K | \$ 97.3 K | \$ 93.4 K | \$ 105.0 K | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -16.85% | 22.25% | -10.02% | -6.91% | 9.95% | -100.00% |

The toxin radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. Through the Indoor Air: Radon Program, the EPA promotes actions to reduce the public's health risk from indoor radon and promotes partnerships between national organizations, the private sector, and more than 50 state, local, and tribal governmental programs to reduce radon risk.

10.39%
2021-25

Indoor Air: Reduce Risks from Indoor Air

Department: Environmental Protection Agency • Bureau: Office of Air and Radiation
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 11.3 M | \$ 12.7 M | \$ 13.3 M | \$ 14.4 M | \$ 12.6 M | \$ 11.6 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 376.2 K | \$ 425.8 K | \$ 444.5 K | \$ 482.4 K | \$ 420.3 K | \$ 388.8 K |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -2.37% | 4.86% | -0.64% | 5.28% | -14.84% | -9.67% |

Under the Indoor Air: Reduce Risks from Indoor Air program, the EPA maintains indoor air monitoring and assessment equipment, conducts field measurements and assessments, and provides technical support and guidance for indoor air quality remediations, with a primary focus on assistance to tribal communities.

NEW
SINCE
2021

Innovation in Maternal Health Program

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 100%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 0.00 | \$ 11.8 M | \$ 15.3 M | \$ 15.3 M | \$ 15.3 M | \$ 15.3 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | N/A | N/A | 23.66% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The Innovation in Maternal Health Program funds public health organizations, universities, community-based organizations, and other groups to improve maternal health by establishing maternal health task forces in states; increasing access to comprehensive care before, during, and after pregnancy; improving the collection and use of state-level data about maternal mortality and morbidity; and launching new interventions.

NEW
SINCE
2021

Integrated Services for Pregnant and Postpartum Women

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 100%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 10.0 M | \$ 10.0 M | \$ 10.0 M | \$ 10.0 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | N/A | N/A | N/A | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The Integrated Services for Pregnant and Postpartum Women program fosters the development and demonstration of integrated health services models to support comprehensive care for pregnant and postpartum people who experience health disparities and have limited access to basic social and health care services.

13.16%
2021-25

Maternal and Child Health Block Grant

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 28%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 710.5 M | \$ 747.7 M | \$ 815.7 M | \$ 813.7 M | \$ 813.7 M | \$ 767.3 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 199.0 M | \$ 209.4 M | \$ 228.4 M | \$ 227.8 M | \$ 227.8 M | \$ 214.8 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 0.03% | -2.50% | 3.82% | -3.22% | -2.25% | -7.94% |

The Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (MCH) aims to improve the health, safety, and well-being of all mothers and children. Through funding to the states, MCH programs strive to support community-based initiatives to address the comprehensive physical, psychological, and social needs of the maternal and child population.

48.06%
2021-25

Medicaid

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 7%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 450.001 B | \$ 529.248 B | \$ 603.781 B | \$ 605.048 B | \$ 674.247 B | \$ 732.740 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 29.700 B | \$ 34.930 B | \$ 39.850 B | \$ 39.933 B | \$ 44.500 B | \$ 48.361 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 7.16% | 8.97% | 8.57% | -2.78% | 8.93% | 6.10% |

Medicaid provides health coverage to children from families with low incomes, ensuring access to essential care for their growth and development. It covers a wide range of services for kids, including doctor visits, hospital care, immunizations, dental and vision services, and regular check-ups. Medicaid currently covers more than 30 million children.

10.69%
2021-25

National Asthma Control Program

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 29.9 M | \$ 30.5 M | \$ 33.5 M | \$ 33.5 M | \$ 33.5 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 897.2 K | \$ 915.0 K | \$ 1.0 M | \$ 1.0 M | \$ 1.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.48% | -5.51% | 4.53% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

The National Asthma Control Program's (NACP) goals include reducing the number of deaths, hospitalizations, emergency department visits, school days or workdays missed, and limitations on activity due to asthma. The NACP funds states, cities, school programs, and non-government organizations to help them improve surveillance of asthma, train health professionals, educate individuals with asthma and their families, and explain asthma to the public.

6.60%
2021-25

National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 91.7 M | \$ 91.9 M | \$ 93.9 M | \$ 98.9 M | \$ 98.9 M | \$ 98.9 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 13.8 M | \$ 13.8 M | \$ 14.1 M | \$ 14.8 M | \$ 14.8 M | \$ 14.8 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 28.84% | -7.12% | -2.76% | 2.18% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative aims to improve behavioral health services and interventions for children and adolescents exposed to traumatic events. In FY 2019, Congress appropriated an additional \$10 million to this program to specifically expand services for unaccompanied children who the government separated from their families at the border, children in Puerto Rico, and tribal populations. The program saw another increase of \$5 million in FY 2020. This program received additional FY 2022 funding in the 2022 Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

31.95%
2021-25

National Childhood Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund

Department: Justice • Bureau: Civil Division
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 5%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 17.0 M | \$ 21.7 M | \$ 31.7 M | \$ 22.7 M | \$ 22.7 M | \$ 22.7 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 901.0 K | \$ 1.2 M | \$ 1.7 M | \$ 1.2 M | \$ 1.2 M | \$ 1.2 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 26.60% | 18.48% | 38.95% | -30.61% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund provides funding to compensate vaccine-related injury or death claims for covered vaccines administered on or after October 1, 1988.

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

9.45%
2021-25

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: National Institutes of Health
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 17%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 1.588 B | \$ 1.683 B | \$ 1.749 B | \$ 1.759 B | \$ 1.759 B | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 270.0 M | \$ 286.1 M | \$ 297.3 M | \$ 299.0 M | \$ 299.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -1.24% | -1.81% | -1.10% | -2.43% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

In the President's FY 2026 budget, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development is absorbed into the National Institute for Child and Women's Health, Sensory Disorders, and Communication.

Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes

-18.86%
2021-25

Department: Housing and Urban Development • Bureau: Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 360.0 M | \$ 415.0 M | \$ 410.0 M | \$ 295.6 M | \$ 295.6 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 54.4 M | \$ 62.7 M | \$ 61.9 M | \$ 44.6 M | \$ 44.6 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 20.18% | 6.81% | -5.98% | -30.06% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

The mission of the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes is to provide safe and healthy homes for at-risk families and children by promoting and funding the identification and repair of at-risk housing to address conditions that threaten the health of residents. This includes the Healthy Homes Program, which protects children and their families from housing-related health and safety concerns, including mold, lead, allergens, asthma, carbon monoxide, pesticides, and radon, as well as Lead Hazard Reduction and Control grants to safely remove lead in as many pre-1978 homes as possible.

Pediatric Mental Health Care Access

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 1%

-100%
2021-25

Mandatory

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 80.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 800.0 K | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | N/A | -100.00% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

28.85%
2021-25

Discretionary

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 10.0 M | \$ 31.0 M | \$ 13.0 M | \$ 13.0 M | \$ 13.0 M | \$ 13.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 99.7 K | \$ 310.0 K | \$ 130.0 K | \$ 130.0 K | \$ 130.0 K | \$ 130.0 K |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.48% | 188.12% | -60.10% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The Pediatric Mental Health Care Access program supports pediatric primary care practices with telehealth consultation by child mental health teams and enhances the capacity of pediatricians to screen, treat, and refer children with mental health concerns.

9.82%
2021-25

Pesticides: Protect Human Health from Pesticide Risk

Department: Environmental Protection Agency • Bureau: Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 58.1 M | \$ 60.2 M | \$ 59.7 M | \$ 65.9 M | \$ 64.6 M | \$ 62.7 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 1.9 M | \$ 2.0 M | \$ 2.0 M | \$ 2.2 M | \$ 2.2 M | \$ 2.1 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -4.22% | -4.06% | -5.53% | 7.00% | -4.18% | -5.28% |

The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for complying with the Endangered Species Act and ensuring that federally endangered and threatened species are not harmed when the Agency registers pesticides. The EPA also ensures that currently registered pesticides do not harm the environment.

28.26%
2021-25

Pesticides: Protect the Environment from Pesticide Risk

Department: Environmental Protection Agency • Bureau: Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 36.7 M | \$ 39.5 M | \$ 45.2 M | \$ 48.7 M | \$ 47.7 M | \$ 48.4 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 1.2 M | \$ 1.3 M | \$ 1.5 M | \$ 1.6 M | \$ 1.6 M | \$ 1.6 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -8.78% | -0.20% | 8.82% | 4.57% | -4.42% | -0.74% |

The Environmental Protection Agency has significant responsibility under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to screen new pesticides before they reach the market and ensure that pesticides already in commerce are safe for human health.

-1.18%
2021-25

Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 160.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 4.2 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.19% | -7.34% | -4.83% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant is a federal grant that provides funding to states, territories, tribes, and other recipients to address public health needs, including maternal, infant, and child health.

-0.78%
2021-25

Project Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Child Health (LAUNCH)

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 36%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 23.5 M | \$ 23.6 M | \$ 25.6 M | \$ 23.6 M | \$ 23.6 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 8.4 M | \$ 8.5 M | \$ 9.2 M | \$ 8.5 M | \$ 8.5 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.58% | -6.96% | 3.23% | -10.56% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

The purpose of the Project LAUNCH initiative is to promote the wellness of young children from birth to 8 years old by addressing the physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral aspects of their development.



Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Rural Health
Administration Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 9%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 82.2 M | \$ 86.0 M | \$ 93.0 M | \$ 101.0 M | \$ 101.0 M | \$ 101.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 7.1 M | \$ 7.4 M | \$ 8.0 M | \$ 8.7 M | \$ 8.7 M | \$ 8.7 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 0.05% | -3.03% | 2.92% | 5.36% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program is a community-based grant program to promote rural health care services by enhancing health care delivery to rural underserved populations in the local community or region, including maternal and infant health.



Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Health Resources and Services Administration
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 0.20%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 2.421 B | \$ 2.495 B | \$ 2.571 B | \$ 3.625 B | \$ 3.625 B | \$ 2.725 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 4.8 M | \$ 5.0 M | \$ 5.1 M | \$ 7.3 M | \$ 7.3 M | \$ 5.5 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -5.45% | -4.52% | -1.92% | 36.80% | -2.25% | -26.61% |

The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides a comprehensive system of care that includes primary medical care and essential support services for people living with HIV who are uninsured or underinsured.



Safe Motherhood/Infant Health Programs

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 100%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 62.8 M | \$ 83.0 M | \$ 108.0 M | \$ 110.5 M | \$ 110.5 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 4.84% | 22.45% | 23.83% | -0.74% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

The Safe Motherhood/Infant Health Programs work to improve the health of mothers and babies by promoting optimal and equitable health through surveillance, science, and service.



Screening and Treatment for Maternal Depression

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Maternal and Child Health Bureau
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 100%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 5.7 M | \$ 6.5 M | \$ 10.0 M | \$ 11.0 M | \$ 11.0 M | \$ 11.0 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -8.70% | 6.45% | 46.41% | 6.72% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The Screening and Treatment for Maternal Depression initiative funds the Maternal Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders program to help health care providers identify and address mental health concerns of women during and after pregnancy.

42.40%
2021-25

State and Tribal Assistance Grant: Lead Testing in Schools

Department: Environmental Protection Agency • Bureau: Office of Water
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 19.4 M | \$ 14.4 M | \$ 30.5 M | \$ 46.1 M | \$ 28.0 M | \$ 28.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 2.9 M | \$ 2.2 M | \$ 4.6 M | \$ 7.0 M | \$ 4.2 M | \$ 4.2 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -27.65% | -31.18% | 101.14% | 46.70% | -40.66% | -2.37% |

The Environmental Protection Agency provides multipurpose funds to states and tribes for high-priority activities to complement activities funded under established environmental statutes. This program provides grants to assist educational agencies in the voluntary testing of lead contamination in drinking water at schools and child care facilities.

-45.72%
2021-25

State and Tribal Assistance Grant: Reducing Lead in Drinking Water

Department: Environmental Protection Agency • Bureau: Office of Water
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 40.1 M | \$ 21.5 M | \$ 32.3 M | \$ 1.6 M | \$ 22.0 M | \$ 20.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 1.3 M | \$ 718.5 K | \$ 1.1 M | \$ 54.7 K | \$ 734.8 K | \$ 668.0 K |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 98.74% | -50.24% | 42.90% | -95.08% | 1212.85% | -11.24% |

The Environmental Protection Agency provides multipurpose funds to states and tribes for high-priority activities to complement activities funded under established environmental statutes. The objectives of this grant program are to reduce the concentration of lead in drinking water, especially in small and underserved communities. Any level of lead poisoning in children is harmful, so this is especially beneficial to child health.

-37.85%
2021-25

State and Tribal Assistance Grant: Safe Water for Small & Disadvantaged Communities

Department: Environmental Protection Agency • Bureau: Office of Water
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 45.3 M | \$ 26.4 M | \$ 22.9 M | \$ 48.1 M | \$ 28.5 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 1.5 M | \$ 882.0 K | \$ 764.4 K | \$ 1.6 M | \$ 951.9 K | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 72.66% | -46.00% | -17.52% | 103.99% | -42.11% | -100.00% |

The Environmental Protection Agency provides multipurpose funds to states and tribes for high-priority activities to complement activities funded under established environmental statutes. This grant program provides assistance to underserved communities that have no household drinking water or wastewater services or are served by a public water system that violates or exceeds any maximum contaminant level, treatment technique, or action level.

-69.28%
2021-25

Superfund Cleanup

Department: Environmental Protection Agency • Bureau: Office of Land and Emergency Management
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 0.41%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 904.6 M | \$ 808.5 M | \$ 1.003 B | \$ 848.0 M | \$ 281.2 M | \$ 76.6 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 3.7 M | \$ 3.3 M | \$ 4.1 M | \$ 3.5 M | \$ 1.2 M | \$ 314.2 K |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 10.20% | -17.19% | 18.12% | -18.02% | -67.58% | -73.40% |

Approximately 2.7% of all children in the United States live within one mile of a Superfund or Corrective Action site. A Superfund is a contaminated site due to hazardous waste being dumped, left out in the open, or otherwise improperly managed. These sites include manufacturing facilities, processing plants, landfills, and mining sites. Through the Superfund Cleanup program, the EPA is responsible for cleaning up some of the nation's most contaminated land and responding to environmental emergencies, oil spills, and natural disasters.

-20.39%
2021-25

Toxics Risks Review and Prevention

Department: Environmental Protection Agency • Bureau: Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 101.3 M | \$ 93.5 M | \$ 121.6 M | \$ 81.6 M | \$ 81.6 M | \$ 78.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 3.4 M | \$ 3.1 M | \$ 4.1 M | \$ 2.7 M | \$ 2.7 M | \$ 2.6 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 8.13% | -14.49% | 23.76% | -34.88% | -2.25% | -6.70% |

The Environmental Protection Agency has significant responsibilities under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) for ensuring the safety of chemicals that are already in or are entering into commerce and addressing unreasonable risks to human health and the environment. The Toxics Risks Review and Prevention program helps fulfill these responsibilities.

48.67%
2021-25

Trevor's Law

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 2.0 M | \$ 2.0 M | \$ 3.0 M | \$ 3.0 M | \$ 3.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 301.1 K | \$ 302.0 K | \$ 453.0 K | \$ 453.0 K | \$ 453.0 K | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 28.70% | -7.06% | 42.75% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

Trevor's Law was originally introduced in 2011 to help communities determine whether there is a connection between "clusters" of cancer, birth defects and other diseases, and contaminants in the surrounding environment, and a version of the bill was signed into law in 2016. In fall 2018, the CDC began working to update existing guidelines in accordance with Trevor's Law to ensure that state, tribal, local, and territorial public health agencies and other stakeholders have access to information about current scientific tools and approaches to assess and respond to potential cancer clusters in communities.

-1.18%
2021-25

Tribal Children and Family Programs

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 17%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 7.2 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 1.2 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.19% | -7.34% | -4.83% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

SAMHSA's Tribal Children and Family Programs provides support for the Circles of Care grant program, which promotes mental disorder treatment equity by providing American Indian/Alaska Native communities with tools and resources to design and sustain their own culturally competent system of care approach for children.

-40.15%
2021-25

Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Early Intervention

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Health Resources and Services Administration
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 100%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 17.8 M | \$ 17.8 M | \$ 18.8 M | \$ 10.8 M | \$ 10.8 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.47% | -7.07% | 0.51% | -44.53% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

The Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Early Intervention program provides grants to states for the implementation of universal newborn hearing screening prior to hospital discharge, diagnostic evaluation, and enrollment in a program of early intervention.



Vaccines For Children

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 53%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 3.806 B | \$ 5.140 B | \$ 5.609 B | \$ 7.239 B | \$ 7.757 B | \$ 7.930 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 2.017 B | \$ 2.724 B | \$ 2.973 B | \$ 3.837 B | \$ 4.111 B | \$ 4.203 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -19.51% | 25.13% | 3.84% | 25.21% | 4.75% | -0.19% |

The Vaccines for Children program allows vulnerable children access to life-saving vaccines as a part of routine preventive care, focusing on children without insurance, those eligible for Medicaid, and American Indian/Alaska Native children.

New Health Programs

**PROPOSED
FOR 2026**

Behavioral Health Innovation Block Grant

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration • Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 1%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 0.00 | \$ 4.126 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 0.00 | \$ 41.8 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

The President's FY 2026 budget proposal absorbs the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant into this new program.

**PROPOSED
FOR 2026**

National Institute for Child and Women's Health, Sensory Disorders, and Communication

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: National Institutes of Health
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 13%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 0.00 | \$ 1.414 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 0.00 | \$ 184.3 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

The President's FY 2026 budget proposal absorbs the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders into this new program.

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HOUSING



29.66%

Increase in Share of Federal Spending
on Housing from FY 2021 to FY 2025

TOTAL SPENDING ON HOUSING

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 2.999 B | \$ 3.213 B | \$ 3.412 B | \$ 3.658 B | \$ 3.934 B | \$ 2.311 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 6.93% | -0.73% | 1.08% | 4.01% | 5.12% | -42.66% |
| Share of Total Spending | 0.04% | 0.05% | 0.06% | 0.05% | 0.06% | 0.03% |

Homelessness affects nearly 500,000 babies,¹ leaving them vulnerable to problems with physical, mental, and behavioral health, and delayed cognitive development.² The federal government plays a critical role in preventing evictions and homelessness. Several federal programs directly address the country's affordable housing crisis by providing support for affordable homes and eviction prevention. Major programs include Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, Project-Based Rental Assistance, the Public Housing Fund, and homelessness assistance grants. These funds are essential to ensuring an adequate supply of affordable housing and an investment in services preventing eviction.

Overall Analysis

Housing funding for babies increased modestly in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, growing by 5.12% adjusted for inflation. From FY 2021 to FY 2025, babies' housing funding increased by 9.71% adjusted for inflation. The share of federal funding devoted to babies' housing needs also increased from 0.04% to 0.06% between FY 2021 and FY 2025.

However, this increased funding is not sufficient to meet the needs of our youngest children. This funding is minuscule in terms of what is needed to address the epidemic levels of homelessness faced by our nation's youngest. Children experienced the largest increase in homelessness

from 2023 to 2024, according to the latest available data, with the number of children facing homelessness rising by one-third.³ Meanwhile, in states such as New York and West Virginia, baby and infant homelessness rates remain higher than 6%.⁴

Program Spotlight

Tenant-Based Rental Assistance

Tenant-Based Rental Assistance provides the main lifeline for low-income families working to secure affordable housing. This program primarily works through Housing Choice Vouchers, which cover a portion of the housing costs for a rental property for low-income individuals.⁵ However, the Trump Administration has proposed a two-year limit on eligibility for housing assistance. This move would put 1.4 million households — most of them low-income families with children — at risk of losing their current homes.⁶ The Trump Administration has also considered work requirements for housing assistance in unpublished rules documents.⁷ The Housing Solutions Lab at New York University estimates that about two-thirds of households affected by these work requirements would include children.⁸

Overview of the President's FY 2026 Budget

The President's proposed FY 2026 budget would drastically cut housing funding for children 0-3. Babies' housing funding would fall by more than 42% when adjusted for inflation and the share of federal funding devoted to this purpose would fall by half to just 0.03%. This decline could significantly increase the number of children experiencing homelessness.

The main driver of this dramatic cut is the consolidation of Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, Project-Based Rental Assistance, and the Public Housing Fund into a new funding stream called the "State Rental Assistance Program." This new funding stream would provide \$1.475 billion less for children 0-3 in FY 2025 than the combined funding of the three eliminated programs. Additionally, this funding would give states greater discretion in administering this funding, potentially threatening the intended purpose of these programs and leading to wildly varied access to housing support across the country.

Looking Ahead

Although appropriations for FY 2026 are not yet finalized, current proposals feature plans to defund essential housing programs for babies and toddlers. The House Republican bill from July 2025 would cut public housing by 17%, eliminate funding for protection against lead paint hazards, and impose a \$770 million cut to Section 8 vouchers, which cover Tenant-Based Rental Assistance and Project-Based Rental Assistance — an estimated \$50 million cut for children 0-3.⁹ Moreover, cuts to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) passed in H.R. 1 will force families to devote more of their earned income to the health and nutrition needs of their children, reducing the money left over to meet housing needs.

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Housing Programs

In cases where the Administration did not provide data, First Focus on Children has assumed flat funding, represented by numbers in gray. Numbers in red reflect programs that have been zeroed out in the Trump Administration's proposed FY 2026 Budget.

Choice Neighborhoods

-62.94%
2021-25

Department: Housing and Urban Development • Bureau: Public and Indian Housing
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 8%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 200.0 M | \$ 350.0 M | \$ 350.0 M | \$ 75.0 M | \$ 75.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 16.2 M | \$ 28.4 M | \$ 28.4 M | \$ 6.1 M | \$ 6.1 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 58.71% | 62.15% | -4.83% | -79.21% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

The Choice Neighborhoods program uses public-private partnerships to help communities transform struggling neighborhoods by revitalizing severely distressed public and/or assisted housing and catalyzing critical improvements in the neighborhood, including vacant property, housing, businesses, services, and schools.

Homeless Assistance Grants

24.53%
2021-25

Department: Housing and Urban Development • Bureau: Community Planning and Development
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 3.215 B | \$ 3.213 B | \$ 3.633 B | \$ 4.051 B | \$ 4.051 B | \$ 4.024 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 109.6 M | \$ 109.6 M | \$ 123.9 M | \$ 138.1 M | \$ 138.1 M | \$ 137.2 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 40.69% | -7.39% | 7.61% | 8.18% | -2.25% | -3.02% |

Homeless Assistance Grants provide funding for homeless programs under Title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. These programs include the Emergency Shelter Grants Program, the Supportive Housing Program, the Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy Program, and the Shelter Plus Care Program.

Housing Program (Tribal Priority Allocations)

0.77%
2021-25

Department: Interior • Bureau: Bureau of Indian Affairs
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 4%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 11.7 M | \$ 11.7 M | \$ 12.2 M | \$ 11.9 M | \$ 11.9 M | \$ 11.9 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 442.6 K | \$ 443.6 K | \$ 461.9 K | \$ 451.3 K | \$ 451.3 K | \$ 451.3 K |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.19% | -7.12% | -0.92% | -5.21% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The Housing Program (Tribal Priority Allocations) provides grant funding for housing repairs, renovations, construction of modest replacement homes, down payments, or construction of modest homes for families who do not own a home but have ownership or lease of sufficient land suitable for housing.

-51.79%
2021-25

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 8.250 B | \$ 3.800 B | \$ 4.000 B | \$ 4.025 B | \$ 4.025 B | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 249.2 M | \$ 114.8 M | \$ 120.8 M | \$ 121.6 M | \$ 121.6 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 72.13% | -57.32% | 0.17% | -2.38% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) keeps families safe and healthy through initiatives that assist families with energy costs.

18.58%
2021-25

Multi-Family Housing Voucher Program (Rural Housing Voucher Program)

Department: Agriculture • Bureau: Rural Housing Service
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 4%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 40.0 M | \$ 45.0 M | \$ 48.0 M | \$ 48.0 M | \$ 48.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 1.7 M | \$ 1.9 M | \$ 2.0 M | \$ 2.0 M | \$ 2.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 21.02% | 4.24% | 1.51% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

The Multi-Family Housing Voucher Program (Rural Housing Voucher Program) is a rental subsidy to help qualifying low-income families who are living in Section 515 Rural Rental Housing multi-family properties and are facing hardship because of foreclosure on the property. Tenants can use these vouchers to supplement rent at their current property or other non-subsidized rental units that meet rural development standards.

0.40%
2021-25

National Housing Trust Fund

Department: Housing and Urban Development • Bureau: Community Planning and Development
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 4%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 213.0 M | \$ 739.0 M | \$ 354.3 M | \$ 195.9 M | \$ 216.4 M | \$ 295.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 8.8 M | \$ 30.7 M | \$ 14.7 M | \$ 8.1 M | \$ 9.0 M | \$ 12.2 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 22.02% | 221.47% | -54.37% | -46.37% | 7.99% | 33.09% |

The National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) was established by Congress as part of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 to address the severe shortage of affordable rental homes and provide adequate funding for the Housing Choice Voucher Program. It is a permanent federal program with dedicated sources of funding, not subject to the annual appropriations process, to provide revenue to build, preserve, and rehabilitate housing for people with the lowest incomes. This analysis estimates that the same number of children participating in Project-Based Rental Assistance are benefiting from the NHTF.

Native American Housing Block Grant Program

104.96%
2021-25

Department: Housing and Urban Development • Bureau: Public and Indian Housing
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 2%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 648.0 M | \$ 772.0 M | \$ 787.0 M | \$ 1.344 B | \$ 1.344 B | \$ 887.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 15.6 M | \$ 18.5 M | \$ 18.9 M | \$ 32.3 M | \$ 32.3 M | \$ 21.3 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.78% | 10.39% | -2.98% | 65.68% | -2.25% | -35.57% |

The Native American Housing Block Grant Program is a formula grant program that provides low-income American Indians and Alaska Natives with safe, decent, and sanitary housing.

Project-Based Rental Assistance

23.95%
2021-25

Department: Housing and Urban Development • Bureau: Office of Housing
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 4%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 13.465 B | \$ 13.940 B | \$ 13.938 B | \$ 16.010 B | \$ 16.890 B | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 558.8 M | \$ 578.5 M | \$ 578.4 M | \$ 664.4 M | \$ 700.9 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 1.02% | -4.07% | -4.85% | 11.44% | 3.12% | -100.00% |

In the President's FY 2026 budget, Project-Based Rental Assistance is consolidated into the State Rental Assistance Program.

Promise Neighborhoods

11.02%
2021-25

Department: Education • Bureau: Safe Schools and Citizenship Education
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 81.0 M | \$ 85.0 M | \$ 91.0 M | \$ 91.0 M | \$ 91.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 12.2 M | \$ 12.8 M | \$ 13.7 M | \$ 13.7 M | \$ 13.7 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -1.98% | -2.77% | 1.89% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

In the President's FY 2026 budget, Promise Neighborhoods are absorbed into the K-12 Simplified Funding Program.

Public Housing Fund (Formerly the Public Housing Operating Fund)

79.00%
2021-25

Department: Housing and Urban Development • Bureau: Public and Indian Housing
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 6%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 4.864 B | \$ 8.452 B | \$ 8.514 B | \$ 8.811 B | \$ 8.811 B | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 277.2 M | \$ 481.7 M | \$ 485.3 M | \$ 502.2 M | \$ 502.2 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 2.82% | 61.00% | -4.13% | 0.40% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

In the President's FY 2026 budget, the Public Housing Fund is consolidated into the State Rental Assistance Program.

20.55%
2021-25

Rural Rental Assistance Program

Department: Agriculture • Bureau: Rural Housing Service
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 4%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 1.346 B | \$ 1.410 B | \$ 1.488 B | \$ 1.608 B | \$ 1.642 B | \$ 1.715 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 56.8 M | \$ 59.5 M | \$ 62.8 M | \$ 67.9 M | \$ 69.3 M | \$ 72.4 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -5.23% | -2.94% | 0.43% | 4.84% | -0.19% | 1.97% |

The Rural Rental Assistance Program provides payments to owners of USDA-financed Rural Rental Housing or Farm Labor Housing projects on behalf of low-income tenants.

Tenant-Based Rental Assistance

Department: Housing and Urban Development • Bureau: Public and Indian Housing
Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 6%

| -100% 2021-25 | Mandatory | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 299.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 19.4 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | N/A | -100.00% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

| 38.16% 2021-25 | Discretionary | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 25.778 B | \$ 27.370 B | \$ 30.253 B | \$ 32.387 B | \$ 36.041 B | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 1.673 B | \$ 1.776 B | \$ 1.963 B | \$ 2.102 B | \$ 2.339 B | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 1.32% | -1.62% | 5.19% | 3.86% | 8.78% | -100.00% | |

In the President's FY 2026 budget, Tenant-Based Rental Assistance is consolidated into the State Rental Assistance Program.

New Housing Programs

**PROPOSED
FOR 2026**

State Rental Assistance Program

Department: Housing and Urban Development • Bureau: Public and Indian Housing
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 6%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 0.00 | \$ 36.212 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 0.00 | \$ 2.068 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

In the President's FY 2026 budget, Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, Project-Based Rental Assistance, and the Public Housing Fund are consolidated into the State Rental Assistance Program.

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A photograph of two women, one with long blonde hair and one with dark curly hair, holding a baby. They are standing in front of a wall decorated with a colorful mural of cartoon animals like a penguin and a fox. The woman on the left is wearing a grey short-sleeved top and blue jeans. The woman on the right is wearing a pink textured sweater and blue jeans. The baby is wearing a grey long-sleeved top and light-colored pants.

**INCOME
SUPPORT**



45.14%

Decrease in Share of Federal Spending on Income Support from FY 2021 to FY 2025

TOTAL SPENDING ON INCOME SUPPORT

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 54.663 B | \$ 42.398 B | \$ 27.286 B | \$ 28.652 B | \$ 30.344 B | \$ 31.664 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 78.16% | -28.13% | -38.75% | 1.87% | 3.52% | 1.88% |
| Share of Total Spending | 0.80% | 0.71% | 0.44% | 0.42% | 0.44% | 0.45% |

Income support programs offer vital financial assistance to babies and their families and are among the most effective tools for reducing child poverty and economic hardship. Key programs such as the Child Tax Credit (CTC), the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) work together to strengthen the safety net for tens of millions of families. A large body of research shows that these tax credits and cash transfers not only work to alleviate poverty but also improve children's developmental outcomes, foster better parent-child relationships, support economic upward mobility, and reduce long-term costs to society.¹ The powerful impact of these programs was especially clear under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), when enhanced investments in income supports led to an unprecedented reduction in child poverty — cutting it nearly in half.

In the United States, babies born into poverty have a higher chance of remaining poor as adults when compared to peer nations. This growing disparity hampers individual economic mobility and poses long-term barriers for social and economic stability.² The tax code offers one of the strongest tools for improving the lives of children by providing credits, deductions, and asset-building tools that reduce child poverty and promote family economic mobility. The RX Kids program in Michigan showcases how universal, unconditional cash transfers can improve the health and well-being for moms and babies.³ Early investments in our children are particularly important because their brains are rapidly developing. Federal support for these investments is crucial because families with a

newborn often experience a drop in income even though household needs are increasing.⁴

Building a healthy, prosperous, and equitable environment for the nation's babies translates directly into a healthy, prosperous, and equitable future for the country.

Overall Analysis

The share of federal spending on income support for children ages 0-3 declined by 45.14% from FY 2021 to FY 2025. The share of infant and toddler-related income support peaked at 0.8% in FY 2021 — less than 1 cent for every dollar invested — during the height of the pandemic when total spending on income support for babies was almost \$55 billion. The share of federal spending on income support programs for babies dropped by almost half from FY 2021 to FY 2025 and hovers at a mere 0.44% of the budget. This decline is mainly due to the expiration of the expanded CTC and the loss of pandemic-era economic impact payments. CTC funding for infants and toddlers reached nearly \$20 billion in FY 2022 and now hovers around just \$4 billion.

In FY 2025, the federal government allocated \$30.34 billion to income support programs for babies, an increase of \$1.69 billion over FY 2024 that was driven largely by mandatory funding requirements, resulting in a real increase in spending of 3.52% between FY 2024 and FY 2025. The two biggest increases for babies among mandatory spending programs were the Disability Compensation (Veterans) program and the Old Age and Survivors Insurance Benefits. Discretionary programs make up a smaller share of income support investments and were all flat-funded from FY 2024 to FY 2025.

Program Spotlight

The Child Tax Credit is one of the most effective tools available against child poverty. In FY 2021, lawmakers temporarily increased the amount of the credit, made it fully refundable, and distributed funds to families monthly. These improvements played a significant role in cutting child poverty nearly in half, from 9.7% in FY 2021 to 5.2% in FY 2022, the lowest level on record.⁵ Once the CTC improvements expired, child poverty soared, rising to 12.4% in 2022 and 13.4% in 2024.⁶ H.R. 1, passed by Congress and signed by President Trump in July 2025, increases the amount of the credit from \$2,000 to \$2,200. But this \$200 increase does not keep up with inflation, and will give children and families even less spending power than they had in 2017.⁷ H.R. 1 also deprives 19 million children of the full credit because their families earn too little and blocks 2.6 million U.S. citizen children from receiving anything at all because their caregiver lacks a Social Security number.⁸ The CTC changes in H.R. 1 also overlook families whose household income suddenly drops — parents welcoming a newborn, survivors of natural disasters or domestic violence, children whose parent has died, kids whose parent has lost a job, and those with a parent who must leave work to provide care. In addition to the bill's significant cuts and policy changes to Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), H.R. 1's changes to the CTC ignore children most in need and do not help reduce child poverty.⁹ CTC mandatory funding for infants and toddlers stayed flat at only \$3.94 billion in FY 2025.

Overview of the President's FY 2026 Budget

President Trump's FY 2026 budget request would increase funding for income support programs from \$30.34 billion to \$31.66 billion. Because the total funding for these programs comes almost entirely from mandatory spending, the increase is attributed to eligibility and participation rates rather than policy changes that support infants and toddlers. The result is an estimated real change

in spending of 1.88% and a tiny increase in the share of spending for children ages 0-3 going from 0.44% in FY 2025 to 0.45% in FY 2026. It is important that the mandatory programs automatically expand to meet the needs of the populations they serve over time, but this increase does not reflect proactive policy choices by lawmakers.

Where the Administration proposes policy changes for discretionary programs, all of the income support programs were either flat-funded or eliminated. Funding for the Family Self-Sufficiency Program at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is eliminated in the FY 2026 budget request. This program promotes local strategies that leverage public and private resources to help HUD-assisted families increase earned income and build assets.

Looking Ahead

The tax code offers an opportunity for lawmakers to enact changes that would significantly reduce child poverty, address income, racial, and gender inequities, and build financial security for the nation's babies and families.

The Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC) is a refundable tax credit available to families purchasing health care through the Affordable Care Act's health insurance Marketplace, helping lower their monthly premium costs. In 2024, consumers eligible for a tax credit experienced an average yearly premium savings of approximately \$700 due to enhanced premium tax credits, yet lawmakers did not extend them in H.R.1, and they will expire at the end of 2025. The failure to renew this enhanced tax credit is expected to increase the uninsured rate for children by 14%.¹¹

As states brace for major cuts to Medicaid, CHIP, and SNAP and grapple with new costs and requirements created by H.R. 1, they may turn to other funding sources such as the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to fill resource gaps and sustain essential services. Since the expiration of the 2021 CTC improvements, TANF stands as one of the only federal programs providing monthly cash assistance to families with low incomes. Redirecting TANF funds to offset losses in other programs risks creating a harmful domino effect, weakening multiple safety nets at once. The TANF block grant has not been increased to adjust for inflation or population change since its inception in 1997. Since then, inflation has cost the TANF block grant 49% of its value. TANF cash assistance is a lifeline for households with children who receive it, helping parents and caretakers afford food, rent, diapers, and other staples. Yet TANF households are often subject to strict work requirements, and assistance fails to reach many kids in need. Congress should consider increasing the annual block grant allocation to states to finally reverse the slow erosion of TANF's value over time, so that families and children — especially babies — have the support they need.

Income Support Programs

In cases where the Administration did not provide data, First Focus on Children has assumed flat funding, represented by numbers in gray. Numbers in red reflect programs that have been zeroed out in the Trump Administration's proposed FY 2026 Budget.

NEW
SINCE
2021

Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (Refundability)

Department: Treasury • Bureau: Internal Revenue Service

Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|-----------------------------|---------|------------|----------|---------|---------|------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 0.00 | \$ 7.630 B | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 0.00 | \$ 1.145 B | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | N/A | N/A | -100.00% | N/A | N/A | N/A |

The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) can help in offsetting working families' child care costs. Unlike the Child Tax Credit, the CDCTC expansion did not include advance payments. Therefore, spending on this credit did not occur until people filed for their 2021 taxes in 2022, making the refundability portion of the credit FY 2022 funding.

-67.15%
2021-25

Child Tax Credit (Refundability)

Department: Treasury • Bureau: Internal Revenue Service

Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 78.959 B | \$ 131.435 B | \$ 29.049 B | \$ 26.248 B | \$ 26.250 B | \$ 26.673 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 11.844 B | \$ 19.715 B | \$ 4.357 B | \$ 3.937 B | \$ 3.938 B | \$ 4.001 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 175.19% | 54.24% | -78.97% | -12.34% | -2.25% | -0.80% |

The Child Tax Credit (CTC) helps ease the costs of having children. The refundable portion of the CTC provides a cash payment to low-income taxpayers who owe little or no income tax.

44.93%
2021-25

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Department: Veterans Affairs • Bureau: Benefits Programs

Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 1%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 7.987 B | \$ 8.768 B | \$ 10.042 B | \$ 10.936 B | \$ 11.714 B | \$ 12.312 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 45.5 M | \$ 50.0 M | \$ 57.2 M | \$ 62.3 M | \$ 66.8 M | \$ 70.2 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 0.45% | 1.72% | 9.00% | 5.65% | 4.70% | 2.61% |

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, also known as "Survivors Compensation," pays a monthly payment to a veteran's surviving spouse, child, or parent after a service-connected death.

75.77%
2021-25

Disability Compensation (Veterans)

Department: Veterans Affairs • Bureau: Benefits Programs
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 101.892 B | \$ 115.533 B | \$ 135.980 B | \$ 157.593 B | \$ 181.236 B | \$ 207.947 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 3.413 B | \$ 3.870 B | \$ 4.555 B | \$ 5.279 B | \$ 6.071 B | \$ 6.966 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 1.56% | 5.06% | 12.01% | 12.43% | 12.41% | 12.02% |

Disability Compensation is a benefit paid to veterans with disabilities that are the result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active service.

14.96%
2021-25

Disability Trust Fund Benefits

Department: Social Security Administration • Bureau: Independent Agency
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 1%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 143.396 B | \$ 143.048 B | \$ 149.443 B | \$ 156.511 B | \$ 166.813 B | \$ 176.876 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 946.4 M | \$ 944.1 M | \$ 986.3 M | \$ 1.033 B | \$ 1.101 B | \$ 1.167 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -5.45% | -7.57% | -0.58% | 1.60% | 4.18% | 3.52% |

Disability Trust Fund Benefits provide monthly benefits to disabled-worker beneficiaries and their spouses and children.

-0.37%
2021-25

Earned Income Tax Credit (Refundability)

Department: Treasury • Bureau: Internal Revenue Service
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 60.757 B | \$ 54.725 B | \$ 55.468 B | \$ 60.011 B | \$ 61.257 B | \$ 60.825 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 9.174 B | \$ 8.263 B | \$ 8.376 B | \$ 9.062 B | \$ 9.250 B | \$ 9.185 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 2.16% | -16.54% | -3.54% | 4.96% | -0.22% | -3.06% |

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable tax credit available to eligible workers earning relatively low wages. Because the credit is refundable, an EITC recipient need not owe taxes to receive the benefit.

Economic Impact Payments

Department: Treasury • Bureau: Internal Revenue Service
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| Round 2 | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
| Spending Level | \$ 32.592 B | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 4.921 B | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | N/A | -100.00% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

| Round 3 | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
| Spending Level | \$ 108.413 B | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 16.370 B | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | N/A | -100.00% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Congress authorized three rounds of stimulus checks that were sent to Americans in response to the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Using data published by the Internal Revenue Service, we were able to determine the amount of the Economic Impact Payments attributable to a qualifying child. Round 1 of Economic Impact Payments concluded in 2020.

Family Self-Sufficiency Program

Department: Housing and Urban Development • Bureau: Public and Indian Housing
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 5%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 79.3 M | \$ 109.0 M | \$ 125.0 M | \$ 195.5 M | \$ 195.5 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 4.3 M | \$ 5.9 M | \$ 6.8 M | \$ 10.7 M | \$ 10.7 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -4.02% | 27.34% | 9.14% | 51.73% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program promoted local strategies that leverage public and private resources, which enables HUD-assisted families to increase earned income and build assets. FSS provides case management to help families overcome barriers to work and develop individualized skills training and services plans, and escrow accounts that grow as families' earnings rise.

-25.72%
2021-25

Human Services Tribal Design (Tribal Priority Allocations)

Department: Interior • Bureau: Bureau of Indian Affairs
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 4%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 290.0 K | \$ 290.0 K | \$ 218.0 K | \$ 218.0 K | \$ 218.0 K | \$ 218.0 K |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 11.0 K | \$ 11.0 K | \$ 8.2 K | \$ 8.2 K | \$ 8.2 K | \$ 8.2 K |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 2.84% | -7.34% | -28.46% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The Human Services Tribal Design program supports American Indian/Alaska Native people by allowing tribes flexibility to redesign their Social Services program delivery as authorized under the Snyder Act of 1924. This funding gives tribes the ability to design Social Services programs that are both cost effective and fit the needs of their communities. Funding is prioritized by tribes to this line item and is distributed directly to tribes as base funding.

-1.20%
2021-25

Indian Child Welfare Act (Tribal Priority Allocations)

Department: Interior • Bureau: Bureau of Indian Affairs
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 16.9 M | \$ 17.3 M | \$ 17.8 M | \$ 16.9 M | \$ 16.9 M | \$ 16.9 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 2.5 M | \$ 2.6 M | \$ 2.7 M | \$ 2.5 M | \$ 2.5 M | \$ 2.5 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 13.43% | -5.12% | -1.89% | -8.12% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) program, funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), is tribally operated to support Indian families, prevent separation, and assist with reunification. ICWA programs manage child custody cases, provide prevention services, and serve as contacts for tribes in child placement. Tribal staff also connect state and tribal courts, improving coordination and compliance with the law.

41.00%
2021-25

Old Age and Survivors Insurance Benefits

Department: Social Security Administration • Bureau: Independent Agency
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: <0.05%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 991.291 B | \$ 1,063.875 B | \$ 1,192.126 B | \$ 1,304.381 B | \$ 1,414.394 B | \$ 1,488.232 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 3.470 B | \$ 3.724 B | \$ 4.172 B | \$ 4.565 B | \$ 4.950 B | \$ 5.209 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 2.07% | -0.56% | 6.64% | 6.15% | 5.99% | 2.73% |

The Old Age and Survivors Insurance Benefits provides monthly income to aged insured individuals and their spouses and children, and to survivors of deceased insured workers.

21.16%
2021-25

Payments to States for Child Support Enforcement and Family Support Programs

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 13%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 4.439 B | \$ 4.194 B | \$ 4.183 B | \$ 4.888 B | \$ 5.443 B | \$ 5.746 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 596.6 M | \$ 563.7 M | \$ 562.2 M | \$ 657.0 M | \$ 731.5 M | \$ 772.2 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -5.17% | -12.45% | -5.09% | 13.37% | 8.84% | 3.07% |

The Payments to States for Child Support Enforcement and Family Support Programs enforce the support obligations owed by absent parents to their children; locates absent parents; establishes paternity; and obtains child, spousal, and medical support.

2.21%
2021-25

Social Services (Tribal Priority Allocations)

Department: Interior • Bureau: Bureau of Indian Affairs
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 4%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 51.2 M | \$ 53.3 M | \$ 54.9 M | \$ 53.0 M | \$ 53.0 M | \$ 53.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 1.9 M | \$ 2.0 M | \$ 2.1 M | \$ 2.0 M | \$ 2.0 M | \$ 2.0 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.71% | -3.55% | -1.90% | -6.48% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

Social Services (Tribal Priority Allocations) funding supports a number of activities for tribally operated social services programs and BIA staff at the regional field levels. Social Services funding is provided annually to approximately 300 tribes and/or BIA field sites across the nation. Under the umbrella of Social Services, tribes operate a multitude of programs, including Financial Assistance and Social Services, Child Protection Services and Child Welfare (CPS/CW), Adult Protection Services (APS), supervised Individual Indian Money Accounts Services, and Family and Domestic Violence. These funds provide the support for front line responders handling the child and domestic violence in Indian Country.

22.59%
2021-25

Supplemental Security Income Federal Benefit Payments

Department: Social Security Administration • Bureau: Independent Agency
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 55.584 B | \$ 61.206 B | \$ 63.154 B | \$ 61.931 B | \$ 68.955 B | \$ 71.636 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 1.429 B | \$ 1.573 B | \$ 1.623 B | \$ 1.592 B | \$ 1.772 B | \$ 1.841 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -11.50% | 2.03% | -1.80% | -4.86% | 8.83% | 1.43% |

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Federal Benefit Payments program guarantees a minimum level of income to low-income individuals who are aged, blind, or disabled, and is the only source of federal income support targeted to families caring for children with disabilities such as Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, intellectual disability, and blindness. Roughly 17% of SSI beneficiaries are children, half of whom would, without SSI, live beneath the poverty line.

-17.49%
2021-25

Survivors' Pension Benefits (Non-Service Connected Death)

Department: Veterans Affairs • Bureau: Benefits Programs
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 1%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 1.466 B | \$ 1.350 B | \$ 1.297 B | \$ 1.266 B | \$ 1.224 B | \$ 1.162 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 18.0 M | \$ 16.6 M | \$ 16.0 M | \$ 15.6 M | \$ 15.1 M | \$ 14.3 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -17.43% | -14.67% | -8.57% | -5.30% | -5.50% | -7.31% |

Survivors' Pension Benefits provide direct payments to needy surviving spouses and children of deceased war-time veterans whose deaths were not due to service. Babies are estimated to receive 1% of these payments.

5.57%
2021-25

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 15.383 B | \$ 17.037 B | \$ 17.347 B | \$ 16.434 B | \$ 16.434 B | \$ 16.434 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 2.275 B | \$ 2.520 B | \$ 2.566 B | \$ 2.431 B | \$ 2.431 B | \$ 2.431 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -14.14% | 2.62% | -3.10% | -8.09% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) is designed to assist struggling families both through direct cash payments and through work supports, such as job training and child care assistance. In addition, TANF supports child welfare services (states use these funding streams to supplement child welfare programs), child care, and state tax credits benefiting low-income families. TANF replaced traditional cash welfare in 1996, and because it is a block grant, funding has not responded to changes in the economy or increases in participation and the real value has declined over time.

-100%
2021-25

TANF Pandemic Emergency Assistance

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 4%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Spending Level | 1.000 B | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 147.9 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | N/A | -100.00% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

The Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund was created to aid needy families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including those not currently receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefits. These funds can be used for nonrecurrent cash assistance or in-kind support for families with children.

-0.56%
2021-25

Welfare Assistance (Tribal Priority Allocations)

Department: Interior • Bureau: Bureau of Indian Affairs

Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 4%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 78.0 M | \$ 78.5 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 2.9 M | \$ 3.0 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 1.05% | -6.76% | -4.83% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The Welfare Assistance program offers five types of secondary assistance: General Assistance, Child Care Assistance, Non-Medical Institutional or Custodial Care of Adults, Burial Assistance, and Emergency Assistance. Eligible AI/AN are assessed, screened, and referred to primary public assistance A-HS-7 programs for possible assistance, such as Supplemental Security Insurance, Social Security Disability Insurance, and state-operated general assistance programs.

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JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION



3.89%

Decrease in Share of Federal Spending on
Justice and Child Protection from FY 2021 to FY 2025

TOTAL SPENDING ON JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 2.154 B | \$ 2.187 B | \$ 2.285 B | \$ 2.412 B | \$ 2.095 B | \$ 2.101 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 0.57% | -5.93% | -0.53% | 2.37% | -15.10% | -2.09% |
| Share of Total Spending | 0.03% | 0.04% | 0.04% | 0.04% | 0.03% | 0.03% |

Dangers to children's physical safety and well-being remain a pervasive issue in the United States and data show that the youngest children are at greatest risk and experience higher rates of maltreatment. Children ages 0–3 account for more than one-quarter (26.6%) of maltreatment victims, and children younger than 1 year old represent 44.0% of child fatalities. Early exposure to child abuse interrupts a child's healthy physical and mental development. Although not causally linked, child poverty and child neglect are highly correlated. Poverty serves as a risk factor for a family being reported to child protective services for neglect because families in poverty often lack the resources to properly feed and care for a baby or child. Therefore, policymakers must also consider supporting justice and child protection by funding child poverty programs.

Child welfare programs such as Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF), the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) State Grants, and the Victims of Child Abuse program (VOCA) support vulnerable children and families. The PSSF program offers funding to states and tribal organizations for prevention, intervention, and support services that help maintain stability within biological, kinship, or adoptive families. Along with supporting healthy and stable families, PSSF provides resources to combat child abuse and neglect. Similarly, VOCA, a youth justice program, supports enforcement and prosecution of child abuse cases and funds Child Advocacy Centers, which coordinate the proceedings. CAPTA provides state funding for child protective service systems, which identify, prevent, and treat cases of child abuse and neglect.

Overall Analysis

FY 2025 continued the decline in federal investment in justice and child protection programs for children ages 0–3, with estimated spending falling by roughly \$317 million, a 15.1% decline from FY 2024 when adjusted for inflation. Since FY 2021, funding for these programs has dropped by roughly \$59 million, or 18.67% when adjusted for inflation, reflecting several years of reductions.

The largest decrease in FY 2025 came from Payments to States for Foster Care, which fell by nearly \$284 million from FY 2024 levels, or 20.38% when adjusted for inflation. While fewer children entering foster care contributes to this decline, the cut still threatens the stability of infants and toddlers in the system, who continue to make up roughly one-third of all children entering foster care. Funding for Payments to States for Adoption Assistance also dropped sharply, down \$37.9 million, or 13.97% when adjusted for inflation, further straining permanency pathways for young children. The ongoing failure to update Title IV-E foster care eligibility thresholds, unchanged since 1996, continues to restrict the number of children that can be supported by federal reimbursement, meaning that states currently receive full federal support for fewer than two-in-five foster children.

At the same time, only a few programs saw increases or maintained consistent funding in FY 2025. Guardianship Assistance rose by more than \$4 million, or 10.94% adjusted for inflation, reflecting continued efforts to strengthen kinship care and family preservation. Programs including Family Violence Prevention and Services and Child Abuse State Grants remained level, offering some stability to essential prevention and intervention work. However, this flat funding represents cuts when adjusted for inflation. Because the FY 2025 budget is limited by continuing resolutions and delayed funding, these cuts could add up, reducing the reach and effectiveness of child protection programs for the youngest and most vulnerable children.

Program Spotlight

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program is a vital yet often overlooked federal initiative that trains volunteers to advocate for the best interests of children involved in the child welfare system. CASAs are assigned to individual cases, providing consistent support and oversight for children who have experienced abuse or neglect, including infants and toddlers. Volunteers help ensure that children's needs are met in court proceedings, coordinate with social workers, and advocate for timely permanency and stable placements. By offering individualized advocacy and close monitoring, the CASA Program helps reduce prolonged foster care stays and improves outcomes for some of the most vulnerable children in the system, making it an essential component of the nation's child protection infrastructure. Despite its critical role, CASA remains one of the most underfunded federal programs for children, with funding ranging from \$300,000 for babies in FY 2021, peaking at \$360,000 in FY 2023, and declining to just \$216,000 in the President's proposed FY 2026 budget.

Overview of the President's FY 2026 Budget

The President's FY 2026 budget proposal continues a troubling trend for justice and child protection programs serving children ages 0–3. Many discretionary programs are slated for deep cuts or elimination, which would significantly reduce the federal safety net for the nation's youngest and most vulnerable children. For example, the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program

is proposed to drop from \$336,000 in FY 2025 to \$216,000 in FY 2026, a more than 37% reduction adjusted for inflation, despite its critical role in providing consistent advocacy for children in foster care. Similarly, programs such as Community-Based Violence Prevention Initiatives and Children Exposed to Violence Awareness and Intervention are slated for elimination or substantial reductions, threatening services that prevent abuse and provide support for trauma-exposed children. Even larger programs such as Payments to States for Foster Care show only modest recovery from prior declines, leaving gaps in funding for infants and toddlers in the system.

Overall, the FY 2026 proposals reflect a continued prioritization of cutting discretionary funding over maintaining or expanding essential child protection services. Programs designed to prevent child abuse, support family stability, and train child welfare personnel are particularly at risk. The budget also signals little new investment in emerging needs, such as supporting children of incarcerated parents or those exposed to domestic violence, which could exacerbate inequities and reduce protective services for the youngest children. If enacted, these proposals would likely weaken the federal government's ability to safeguard infants and toddlers, leaving gaps in oversight, advocacy, and prevention services that are crucial for early childhood well-being.

Looking Ahead

Several looming threats could further strain justice and child protection programs for children ages 0–3. Proposed cuts in discretionary spending under the President's proposed FY 2026 budget would continue to reduce funding for critical programs such as CASA, Community-Based Violence Prevention Initiatives, and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, leaving fewer resources to support the youngest children at risk of abuse and neglect. Advocates remain particularly concerned that continued reliance on continuing resolutions and delayed appropriations could prevent states from planning or expanding services, compounding years of incremental erosion in program capacity.

Justice and Child Protection Programs

In cases where the Administration did not provide data, First Focus on Children has assumed flat funding, represented by numbers in gray. Numbers in red reflect programs that have been zeroed out in the Trump Administration's proposed FY 2026 Budget.

-1.18%
2021-25

Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Payments Program

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 75.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 11.3 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.19% | -7.34% | -4.83% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Payments Program provides incentive payments to states that increase the number of adoptions of children in the public foster care system.

23.24%
2021-25

Adoption Opportunities

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 44.1 M | \$ 48.0 M | \$ 51.0 M | \$ 53.0 M | \$ 55.0 M | \$ 53.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 6.7 M | \$ 7.2 M | \$ 7.7 M | \$ 8.0 M | \$ 8.3 M | \$ 8.0 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 1.41% | 0.85% | 1.12% | 0.82% | 1.44% | -5.92% |

Adoption Opportunities grants provide funds for projects designed to eliminate barriers to adoption and help find permanent families for children who would benefit from adoption, particularly children with special needs.

-1.18%
2021-25

Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Community Living
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 300.0 K |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 45.3 K |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.19% | -7.34% | -4.83% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

More than 2.5 million grandparents in the United States are the primary caretakers of their grandchildren. The Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, authorized by Congress in 2018, is intended to identify, promote, coordinate, and disseminate to the public information, resources, and the best practices available to help grandparents and other older relatives raising children, with special emphasis on families impacted by the opioid crisis and Native American families.

1.64%
2021-25

Child Abuse Discretionary Activities

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 31%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 35.0 M | \$ 36.0 M | \$ 38.0 M | \$ 36.0 M | \$ 36.0 M | \$ 36.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 10.7 M | \$ 11.1 M | \$ 11.7 M | \$ 11.1 M | \$ 11.1 M | \$ 11.1 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.19% | -4.70% | 0.46% | -8.09% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

Child Abuse Discretionary Activities support a national child abuse hotline with resources and intervention in all modalities, including chat, text, and calls, to provide comprehensive capabilities to serve both youth and concerned adults facing child abuse and neglect.

Child Abuse State Grants

15.27%
2021-25

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 31%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 90.1 M | \$ 95.1 M | \$ 105.1 M | \$ 105.1 M | \$ 105.1 M | \$ 105.1 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 27.7 M | \$ 29.2 M | \$ 32.3 M | \$ 32.3 M | \$ 32.3 M | \$ 32.3 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.19% | -2.20% | 5.18% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

Child Abuse State Grants assist states and communities in addressing the need for innovative and effective child abuse prevention and treatment services.

-1.18%
2021-25

Child Welfare Services

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 268.7 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 40.3 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -17.07% | -7.34% | -4.83% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The Child Welfare Services program is designed to establish, extend, and strengthen child welfare services. Funds may be used for services such as investigation of child abuse and neglect reports, removal of children from a home for their safety, and financial support for children in foster care.

19.72%
2021-25

Child Welfare Training

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 31%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 19.0 M | \$ 19.0 M | \$ 19.0 M | \$ 22.0 M | \$ 23.0 M | \$ 22.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 5.8 M | \$ 5.8 M | \$ 5.8 M | \$ 6.7 M | \$ 7.1 M | \$ 6.7 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 2.20% | -7.34% | -4.83% | 12.34% | 2.26% | -6.68% |

Child Welfare Training grants provide funds to accredited public or other nonprofit institutions of higher learning for specific projects to train prospective and current personnel for work in the field of child welfare.

11.17%
2021-25

Children Exposed to Violence Awareness and Intervention Initiative

Department: Justice • Bureau: Office of Justice Programs

Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 8.0 M | \$ 8.0 M | \$ 10.0 M | \$ 9.0 M | \$ 9.0 M | \$ 4.5 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 1.2 M | \$ 1.2 M | \$ 1.5 M | \$ 1.4 M | \$ 1.4 M | \$ 675.0 K |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.19% | -7.34% | 18.96% | -12.69% | -2.25% | -51.18% |

The Children Exposed to Violence Awareness and Intervention Initiative helps implement effective youth crime and delinquency prevention programs and assist children victimized by crime and abuse.

-1.18%
2021-25

Children of Incarcerated Parents Demonstration Program

Department: Justice • Bureau: Office of Justice Programs

Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 5.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 125.0 K |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.19% | -7.34% | -4.83% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

Children of Incarcerated Parents Demonstration Program grants aim to enhance and maintain parental and family relationships for incarcerated parents and mitigate the consequences of parental incarceration for the 7% of U.S. children who have experienced it.

-1.18%
2021-25

Children of Incarcerated Parents Web Portal

Department: Justice • Bureau: Office of Justice Programs

Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 3%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 500.0 K |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 12.5 K |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.19% | -7.34% | -4.83% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

Grants for the Children of Incarcerated Parents Web Portal support the development and enhancement of a publicly accessible website (<https://youth.gov/youth-topics/children-of-incarcerated-parents>) that will consolidate information regarding federal resources, grant opportunities, best and promising practices, and ongoing government initiatives that address and support children of incarcerated parents and their caregivers.

-5.83%
2021-25

Children, Youth, and Families at Risk

Department: Agriculture • Bureau: National Institute of Food & Agriculture

Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 8.4 M | \$ 8.4 M | \$ 8.4 M | \$ 8.0 M | \$ 8.0 M | \$ 8.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 1.3 M | \$ 1.3 M | \$ 1.3 M | \$ 1.2 M | \$ 1.2 M | \$ 1.2 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.19% | -7.34% | -4.83% | -7.55% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The Children, Youth, and Families at Risk program supports the development of community-based educational programs that equip families and youth with limited resources who are at risk for not meeting basic human needs with the skills they need to lead positive and productive lives.

NEW
SINCE
2021

Children's Interagency Coordinating Council

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 3.0 M | \$ 3.0 M | \$ 3.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 450.0 K | \$ 450.0 K | \$ 450.0 K | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | N/A | N/A | N/A | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

Children's Interagency Coordinating Council funding fosters greater coordination and transparency on child policy across agencies. The Council was tasked with contracting the National Academy of Sciences to prepare a report to Congress analyzing federal policies that have affected child poverty. The study should rely on the U.S. Census Bureau Supplemental Poverty Measure, among other sources of information. The Council was also asked to examine and periodically report on a broad array of cross-cutting issues affecting child well-being.

15.11%
2021-25

Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 60.7 M | \$ 65.7 M | \$ 70.7 M | \$ 70.7 M | \$ 70.7 M | \$ 60.7 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 9.2 M | \$ 9.9 M | \$ 10.7 M | \$ 10.7 M | \$ 10.7 M | \$ 9.2 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 5.51% | 0.29% | 2.42% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -16.19% |

Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention assists states and communities in addressing the need for innovative and effective child abuse prevention and treatment services.

2.14%
2021-25

Community Services Block Grants

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 5%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 745.0 M | \$ 755.5 M | \$ 770.0 M | \$ 770.0 M | \$ 770.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 39.6 M | \$ 40.2 M | \$ 41.0 M | \$ 41.0 M | \$ 41.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -58.55% | -6.04% | -3.01% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

The Community Services Block Grants offer funds to states to address the causes of poverty by providing effective services in communities. Activities may include coordination and referral to other programs, as well as direct services such as child care, transportation, employment, education, and self-help projects.

-36.47%
2021-25

Community-Based Violence Prevention Initiatives

Department: Justice • Bureau: Office of Justice Programs
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 14.0 M | \$ 14.0 M | \$ 10.0 M | \$ 9.0 M | \$ 9.0 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 2.1 M | \$ 2.1 M | \$ 1.5 M | \$ 1.4 M | \$ 1.4 M | \$ 0.00 |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 69.43% | -7.34% | -32.02% | -12.69% | -2.25% | -100.00% |

Community-Based Violence Prevention Initiatives provide funding for community-based strategies that focus on street-level outreach, conflict mediation, and the changing of community norms to reduce violence, particularly shootings.

10.51%
2021-25

Consumer Product Safety Commission

Department: Consumer Product Safety Commission • Bureau: Consumer Product Safety Commission
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 6%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 135.0 M | \$ 139.1 M | \$ 152.5 M | \$ 151.0 M | \$ 151.0 M | \$ 135.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 8.2 M | \$ 8.4 M | \$ 9.3 M | \$ 9.2 M | \$ 9.2 M | \$ 8.2 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -1.73% | -4.56% | 4.37% | -3.96% | -2.25% | -12.70% |

The Consumer Product Safety Commission is an independent regulatory agency whose primary responsibilities include protecting children and families against unreasonable risks of injury associated with consumer products, developing uniform safety standards for consumer products, and promoting research and investigation into the causes and prevention of product related deaths, illnesses, and injuries.

10.68%
2021-25

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program

Department: Justice • Bureau: Office of Justice Programs
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 2%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 12.5 M | \$ 14.0 M | \$ 15.0 M | \$ 14.0 M | \$ 14.0 M | \$ 9.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 300.0 K | \$ 336.0 K | \$ 360.0 K | \$ 336.0 K | \$ 336.0 K | \$ 216.0 K |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 0.85% | 3.78% | 1.97% | -9.45% | -2.25% | -37.24% |

The Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA) program helps ensure that abused children receive high-quality representation in dependency court hearings.

29.95%
2021-25

Family Violence Prevention and Services

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Children and Family Services Programs
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 15%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 182.5 M | \$ 200.0 M | \$ 240.0 M | \$ 240.0 M | \$ 240.0 M | \$ 240.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 27.6 M | \$ 30.2 M | \$ 36.2 M | \$ 36.2 M | \$ 36.2 M | \$ 36.2 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 0.96% | 1.54% | 14.20% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

Family Violence Prevention and Services provide funding to prevent incidents of domestic violence and to provide immediate shelter and supportive services.

51.80%
2021-25

Guardianship Assistance

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 10%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 248.7 M | \$ 254.0 M | \$ 345.0 M | \$ 336.6 M | \$ 382.0 M | \$ 386.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 23.9 M | \$ 24.4 M | \$ 33.1 M | \$ 32.3 M | \$ 36.7 M | \$ 37.1 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 9.87% | -5.36% | 29.26% | -5.36% | 10.94% | -1.35% |

The Guardianship Assistance provides Title IV-E subsidies on behalf of a child to a relative taking legal guardianship of that child.

8.28%
2021-25

Missing & Exploited Children Programs

Department: Justice • Bureau: Office of Justice Programs

Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 25%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 94.0 M | \$ 99.0 M | \$ 105.0 M | \$ 103.0 M | \$ 103.0 M | \$ 103.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 23.6 M | \$ 24.9 M | \$ 26.4 M | \$ 25.9 M | \$ 25.9 M | \$ 25.9 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 4.01% | -2.41% | 0.94% | -4.83% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The Missing & Exploited Children Programs provides funds to public agencies or private nonprofit organizations for research, training, technical assistance, demonstration projects, or service programs designed to enhance support for missing children and their families.

7.65%
2021-25

Payments to States for Adoption Assistance

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families

Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 7%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 3.802 B | \$ 3.736 B | \$ 4.128 B | \$ 4.706 B | \$ 4.142 B | \$ 4.397 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 255.5 M | \$ 251.1 M | \$ 277.4 M | \$ 316.2 M | \$ 278.3 M | \$ 295.5 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 8.76% | -8.95% | 5.15% | 10.60% | -13.97% | 3.64% |

The Payments to States for Adoption Assistance program provides funds to states to subsidize families that adopt children with special needs who cannot be reunited with their families, thus preventing long, inappropriate stays in foster care.

-11.34%
2021-25

Payments to States for Foster Care

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families

Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 24%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 5.795 B | \$ 5.830 B | \$ 5.952 B | \$ 6.382 B | \$ 5.199 B | \$ 5.314 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 1.391 B | \$ 1.399 B | \$ 1.428 B | \$ 1.532 B | \$ 1.248 B | \$ 1.275 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 4.76% | -6.78% | -2.85% | 4.04% | -20.38% | -0.21% |

The Payments to States for Foster Care program provides matching reimbursement funds for foster care maintenance payments, costs for comprehensive child welfare information systems, staff training for foster and adoptive parents, and administrative costs to manage the program.

6.77%
2021-25

Poison Control

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Health Resources and Services Administration

Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 41%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 24.8 M | \$ 25.8 M | \$ 26.8 M | \$ 26.8 M | \$ 26.8 M | \$ 26.8 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 10.2 M | \$ 10.6 M | \$ 11.0 M | \$ 11.0 M | \$ 11.0 M | \$ 11.0 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -13.77% | -3.61% | -1.15% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The Poison Control program ensures access to poison center services, connects callers to local centers, and promotes poison prevention through a nationwide media campaign.

Promoting Safe and Stable Families

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 24%

| Mandatory | | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 3.81% 2021-25 | | | | | | | |
| Spending Level | \$ 328.4 M | \$ 345.0 M | \$ 420.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 78.8 M | \$ 82.8 M | \$ 100.8 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -2.06% | -2.66% | -4.83% | -2.99% | -2.25% | | 18.85% |

| Discretionary | | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|
| -13.16% 2021-25 | | | | | | | |
| Spending Level | \$ 82.5 M | \$ 82.5 M | \$ 86.5 M | \$ 72.5 M | \$ 72.5 M | \$ 62.5 M | |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 19.8 M | \$ 19.8 M | \$ 20.8 M | \$ 17.4 M | \$ 17.4 M | \$ 15.0 M | |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -13.65% | -7.34% | -0.22% | -18.68% | -2.25% | | -15.83% |

The Promoting Safe and Stable Families program offers grants to states to help prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their families, to improve the quality of care and services to children and their families, and to promote family reunification.

Social Services Block Grant

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 9%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 1.603 B | \$ 1.700 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 147.6 M | \$ 156.6 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -2.98% | -1.74% | -4.83% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The Social Services Block Grant offers funds to states to provide social services that best suit the needs of individuals in that state. Services typically include child day care, protective services for children and adults, and home care services for the elderly and handicapped.

Social Services Research and Demonstration

Department: Health and Human Services • Bureau: Administration for Children and Families
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 17%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 7.5 M | \$ 44.5 M | \$ 142.9 M | \$ 75.0 M | \$ 74.8 M | \$ 27.5 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 1.3 M | \$ 7.6 M | \$ 24.3 M | \$ 12.8 M | \$ 12.7 M | \$ 4.7 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 3.02% | 452.63% | 205.49% | -49.05% | -2.52% | -64.10% |

The Social Services Research and Demonstration program promotes the ability of families to be financially self-sufficient and supports the healthy development and greater social well-being of children and families.

-1.18%
2021-25

Support for Missing and Exploited Children

Department: Homeland Security • Bureau: United States Secret Service
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 25%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 6.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 1.5 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -3.19% | -7.34% | -4.83% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

Support for Missing and Exploited Children assists federal law enforcement agencies in the investigation and recovery of missing children.

35.05%
2021-25

Victims of Child Abuse (VOCA)

Department: Justice • Bureau: Office of Justice Programs
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 29%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 30.0 M | \$ 33.0 M | \$ 41.0 M | \$ 41.0 M | \$ 41.0 M | \$ 41.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 8.6 M | \$ 9.4 M | \$ 11.7 M | \$ 11.7 M | \$ 11.7 M | \$ 11.7 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 7.57% | 1.92% | 18.24% | -2.99% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The Victims of Child Abuse (VOCA) program supports training and technical assistance to professionals involved in investigating, prosecuting, and treating child abuse. This program also supports the development of Children's Advocacy Centers and/or multi-disciplinary teams designed to prevent the inadvertent revictimization of an abused child by the justice and social service system in their efforts to protect the child.



NUTRITION



4.29%

Decrease in Share of Federal Spending
on Nutrition from FY 2021 to FY 2025

| TOTAL SPENDING ON NUTRITION | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
| Spending Level | \$ 14.169 B | \$ 14.476 B | \$ 15.456 B | \$ 13.947 B | \$ 13.724 B | \$ 13.919 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 18.78% | -5.34% | 1.61% | -12.46% | -3.82% | -0.98% |
| Share of Total Spending | 0.21% | 0.24% | 0.25% | 0.21% | 0.20% | 0.20% |

Consistent access to healthy food is critically important for a child's development and overall well-being. Federal food assistance and child nutrition programs provide vital support to America's children, filling in the nutritional and caloric gaps that emerge when low-income families struggle to make ends meet. Adequate nutrition during infancy and early childhood is especially important and can impact a child's health into adulthood. Research shows that infants who experience low food-security are more likely to be obese, a condition that is likely to persist into adulthood.¹ Children ages 0-3 experiencing food insecurity are more likely to be in poor health than their food-secure peers and, in fact, are 30% more likely to be hospitalized.² More than 1-in-7 children in America experience food insecurity, a situation being compounded by soaring food costs, and the rising prices and shortages of infant formula.³

Nutrition assistance programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) are proven to mitigate some of the worst health risks associated with early childhood food insecurity. SNAP, also known as food stamps, provides monthly benefits to help recipients purchase groceries. WIC provides similar assistance specifically to pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, infants, and children up

to age 5, and includes a specific cash value benefit that allows parents to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. Other programs, such as the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), help child care providers offer meals and snacks to bridge some of the nutritional gaps babies may experience at home. Infants and toddlers enrolled in these programs are less likely to be food insecure and demonstrate improved health outcomes. Significant investments are critical to ensuring that these programs can meet the requirements of each infant and toddler who needs them.

Overall Analysis and Overview of the President's FY 2026 Budget

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, nutrition spending on babies fell by 3.82% adjusted for inflation—driven mostly by a decline in SNAP spending. That same downward trend is continued in the President's FY 2026 budget request, which creates another 0.98% drop in babies' nutrition spending adjusted for inflation, this time driven by an enormous cut to WIC spending. In fact, the President's proposal makes an even larger cut to discretionary spending on babies' nutrition — 6.1% — meaning that children aged 0-3 are even more targeted for spending cuts than children as a whole. Even larger cuts loom on the horizon, as states prepare to absorb a greater share of SNAP costs, a change scheduled to take effect in FY 2027.

Program Spotlight

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, better known as WIC, is one of the most critically important programs for babies and their mothers. It supports low-income newborns by providing access to healthy foods, formula and breastfeeding support, nutritional education, and referrals to other services. In recent years, the program has also been a legislative flashpoint. The FY 2026 President's budget request would slash WIC's funding, and in particular, its fruit and vegetable component, leaving an estimated 5 million families without this popular benefit.⁴ Fortunately, the FY 2026 Senate Agriculture appropriations bill rejects this approach and fully funds WIC, including its fruit and vegetable component. At the time of publication, this bill was reported out of Committee but had not advanced to the Senate floor on its own or as part of a larger funding package.

Looking Ahead

The worst cuts to SNAP are still to come. The reconciliation bill signed into law on July 4, 2025 makes the largest cut to SNAP in history: roughly \$186 billion over 10 years. These cuts will undoubtedly increase childhood hunger—including among babies—strain local food banks, and put pressure on state budgets as Congress shifts the cost of SNAP from the federal government to the states. These cuts will impact all 40 million people who rely on SNAP, including 16 million children.

Under the reconciliation law, states would be forced to fund 5-15% of SNAP costs, depending on their administrative error rate. States will struggle to cover this new cost, forcing them to choose between restricting eligibility, making benefits even less supportive, or both. Because the state cost responsibility is in part a function of its error rate, states are rewarded if reducing the number of SNAP

participants reduces its error rate. States could even opt out of the program entirely. All of these options will leave children and babies hungrier. Congress should immediately act to delay or reverse this cost shift, which starts going into effect in 2027.

Nutrition Programs

In cases where the Administration did not provide data, First Focus on Children has assumed flat funding, represented by numbers in gray. Numbers in red reflect programs that have been zeroed out in the Trump Administration's proposed FY 2026 Budget.

5.57%
2021-25

Child and Adult Care Food Program

Department: Agriculture • Bureau: Food and Nutrition Service
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 28%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 4.015 B | \$ 4.315 B | \$ 4.660 B | \$ 4.244 B | \$ 4.289 B | \$ 4.484 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 1.124 B | \$ 1.208 B | \$ 1.305 B | \$ 1.188 B | \$ 1.201 B | \$ 1.256 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 1.34% | -0.43% | 2.78% | -11.64% | -1.21% | 2.06% |

The Child and Adult Care Food Program assists care institutions in providing meals and snacks to children and adults in non-residential day care, including after-school programs, and to homeless children in emergency shelters.

-52.94%
2021-25

Farmers Market Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children

Department: Agriculture • Bureau: Food and Nutrition Service
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 67%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 21.0 M | \$ 26.0 M | \$ 26.0 M | \$ 10.0 M | \$ 10.0 M | \$ 10.0 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 14.0 M | \$ 17.4 M | \$ 17.4 M | \$ 6.7 M | \$ 6.7 M | \$ 6.7 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 9.61% | 14.72% | -4.83% | -62.69% | -2.25% | -2.37% |

The Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) is associated with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, popularly known as WIC. Eligible WIC participants are issued FMNP coupons in addition to their regular WIC benefits. These coupons can be used to buy eligible foods from farmers, farmers markets, or roadside stands that have been approved by the state agency to accept FMNP coupons.

-36.36%
2021-25

Special Milk Program

Department: Agriculture • Bureau: Food and Nutrition Service
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 12%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 7.3 M | \$ 6.3 M | \$ 7.8 M | \$ 6.7 M | \$ 4.7 M | \$ 4.7 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 877.1 K | \$ 750.0 K | \$ 938.0 K | \$ 798.1 K | \$ 564.8 K | \$ 558.6 K |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 0.17% | -20.77% | 19.03% | -17.46% | -30.82% | -3.45% |

The Special Milk Program assists states in providing milk to children in schools and child care institutions who do not participate in other federal meal service programs.

49.39%
2021-25

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children

Department: Agriculture • Bureau: Food and Nutrition Service
Type: Discretionary • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 67%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 5.026 B | \$ 6.000 B | \$ 6.000 B | \$ 7.031 B | \$ 7.598 B | \$ 7.307 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 3.355 B | \$ 4.006 B | \$ 4.006 B | \$ 4.694 B | \$ 5.072 B | \$ 4.878 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -18.36% | 10.61% | -4.83% | 13.68% | 5.63% | -6.11% |

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and breastfeeding and nutrition education to low-income pregnant and postpartum women, as well as infants and children up to age 5 who are found to be at nutritional risk.

55.06%
2021-25

State Administrative Expenses for Child Nutrition Programs

Department: Agriculture • Bureau: Food and Nutrition Service
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 1%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 317.0 M | \$ 332.0 M | \$ 339.0 M | \$ 491.6 M | \$ 497.5 M | \$ 509.9 M |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 3.2 M | \$ 3.3 M | \$ 3.4 M | \$ 4.9 M | \$ 5.0 M | \$ 5.1 M |
| Real Change from Prior Year | -2.53% | -2.97% | -2.83% | 40.68% | -1.08% | 0.07% |

State Administrative Expenses for Child Nutrition Programs provide funds to states for administrative expenses incurred from supervising and giving technical assistance to local schools, school districts, and institutions in their conduct of child nutrition programs. Funds are also given to help states in their distribution of USDA donated commodities to schools, child care institutions, or adult care institutions.

-24.00%
2021-25

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Department: Agriculture • Bureau: Food and Nutrition Service
Type: Mandatory • Share of Spending Allocated to Infants and Toddlers: 7%

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Trump 2026 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Spending Level | \$ 146.988 B | \$ 140.441 B | \$ 153.864 B | \$ 122.383 B | \$ 113.042 B | \$ 118.135 B |
| Estimated Share to Babies | \$ 9.672 B | \$ 9.241 B | \$ 10.124 B | \$ 8.053 B | \$ 7.438 B | \$ 7.773 B |
| Real Change from Prior Year | 44.51% | -11.47% | 4.26% | -22.84% | -9.71% | 2.03% |

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps, provides direct financial assistance to low-income households for use in purchasing food for home consumption.

1. Benjamin-Neelon, Sara E., Allen, Carter, and Brian Neelon. "Household Food Security and Infant Adiposity." American Academy of Pediatrics Selective Deposit, 146(3). September 1, 2020. <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/146/3/e20193725/36662/Household-Food-Security-and-Infant-Adiposity?autologincheck=redirected>.
2. Cook, John T. et al. "Food Insecurity Is Associated with Adverse Health Outcomes among Human Infants and Toddlers." *The Journal of Nutrition*, 134(6). June 2004. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022316623028171>.

3. "Food Insecurity." American Academy of Pediatrics. Last accessed May 16, 2024. <https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/food-insecurity/>.
4. Eppes, Elisabet. "Trump Budget Would Slash WIC Fruit and Vegetable Benefits for Millions." June 3, 2025. <https://www.cbpp.org/blog/trump-budget-would-slash-wic-fruit-and-vegetable-benefits-for-millions>

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair and a pink shirt holding a baby with light hair and a white onesie. They are both looking at an open book together, suggesting a reading session. The background is a bright, possibly sunlit room.

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