



## President Trump's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget: Another Broken Promise to Working People, Students, and Families

On March 16, 2017, the Trump Administration released a Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) budget blueprint in advance of a detailed budget to come in May. The budget proposes a \$54 billion increase in defense spending, and reduces non-defense spending by \$54 billion (excluding Homeland Security and Veterans). This budget proposes significant cuts to funding at the Department of Education (ED), Health and Human Services (HHS), Department of Labor (DOL), and Agriculture (USDA), and eliminates select independent agencies altogether which support education, job training through community service, and workplace safety.

This fact sheet provides highlights of proposed cuts and eliminations to programs under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

### EDUCATION

President Trump proposes a 13.5 percent cut to ED, reducing funding levels from FY2017 by more than \$9 billion. The president's proposal undermines implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and public schools by slashing investment in K12 public education and diverting dollars toward private school vouchers. Additionally, President Trump proposes to make college less affordable for working families with deep cuts to financial aid and programs for low-income students. While not all cuts and eliminations are clearly articulated in ED's agency narrative, President Trump's "skinny" budget:

- Provides \$1.4 billion (FY18), and eventually \$20 billion for "school choice," including a 50 percent increase for Charter Schools, a new Private School voucher program, and Title I funding dedicated to "portability", despite this policy being debated and rejected by Congress during consideration of ESSA;
- Flat funds Title I-A, which provides funding to serve disadvantaged students, and would result in a dramatic reductions in funding allocations to high poverty school districts;
- Eliminates Title II-A of the ESSA, which provides federal funding for teacher supports and class size reduction;
- Eliminates Title IV-B of the ESSA, which provides funding for afterschool programs serving low-income students and families;
- Eliminates or reduces more than 20 additional programs including the Striving Readers literacy program and Impact Aid which supports school districts with federally-connected students.
- Cuts nearly \$200 million for TRIO and GEAR UP, programs that support first generation college students through outreach to low-income and minority middle and high school students;
- Slashes \$3.9 billion from the Pell Grant program reserves, funding that makes college affordable for low-income students;
- Eliminates the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program that targets campus-based financial aid to college students with demonstrated need; and
- Reduces the federal investment in the Federal Work Study programs which helps make college more affordable for low-income students.

### HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

President Trump proposes a 16 percent cut to HHS, reducing funding levels from FY2017 by nearly \$13 billion. This will severely diminish the agency's ability to deliver support for quality child care and early learning, and achieve quality,

affordable care for all Americans. The agency narrative released on March 14 does not detail reductions or program eliminations for cornerstone family supports such as Head Start, Older Americans Act programs, or the Child Care and Development Block Grant. However, the “skinny” budget:

- Eliminates the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) which helps low-income families with the cost of home heating and cooling; and
- Eliminates the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) which supports community action agencies and other non-profits in their efforts to reduce poverty in their communities.

## **LABOR**

President Trump proposes a 21 percent cut to the DOL, reducing the Department’s current \$12.1 billion discretionary funding by \$2.5 billion. This budget proposal will undermine the Department’s mission to support working people, help them secure safe, good-paying jobs, and protect wages. The handful of cuts and eliminations spelled out in the “skinny” budget:

- Reduces support for federal job training and employment services formula grants and shifts these costs to the states, while expanding assistance to states for apprenticeships;
- Ends the Senior Community Service and Employment Program, a community service and work-based job training program for older Americans.
- Closes some Job Corps Centers, diminishing the number of youth served through Job Corps’ comprehensive career development program for at-risk youth;
- Eliminates funding to counter the worst forms of child labor through the Bureau of International and Labor Affairs; and
- Eliminates \$11 million in OSHA safety training grants for high hazard industries.

## **AGRICULTURE**

President Trump proposes a 21 percent cut to USDA, a \$4.7 billion decrease from FY2017. The “skinny” budget provides \$6.2 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). This proposed level of funding is \$150 million less than the FY2016 appropriation and *may* adequately fund the program due to the recent decline in participation. However, for the last 20 years, WIC has received full funding based on USDA estimates of projected participation in the WIC program. Unfortunately, the lack of detail in the “skinny” budget makes it unclear as to whether or not women and children will be adequately supported. The “skinny” budget makes no mention of any other child nutrition program, such as the National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program. Given the size of the cut to USDA, child nutrition programs are likely to be affected.

## **INDEPENDENT AGENCIES**

President Trump proposes to completely eliminate 20 independent agencies within the federal government, including:

- The Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board which identifies the root cause of major industrial catastrophes;
- The Corporation for National and Community Service which runs the America Corps Program;
- The Institute of Museum and Library Services which is the primary source of federal support for 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums;
- The National Endowment for the Arts which promotes equal access to the arts in every community across America;
- The National Endowment for the Humanities which provides funding for humanities research, preservation, digital development, education, endowment building, films, exhibitions, and public programming; and
- The Institute for Peace which helps the U.S. military to prevent and manage international conflicts to avoid violence and help stabilize international environments where American military and civilians are living and working.