



FACT SHEET

How Trump's FY 2019 Budget Hurts Children

By Leila Schochet and Eliza Schultz February 16, 2018

President Donald Trump's fiscal year 2019 budget is poised to wreak havoc on America's children—increasing hunger, reducing families' economic security, and undermining access to child care and education, all to pay for \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts for corporations and millionaires.¹ Here are just a few examples of the countless ways in which President Trump's budget harms children.

- **Sabotages health care:** As a continuation of President Trump's relentless attacks on the nation's health care system, his budget not only repeals and replaces the Affordable Care Act, but slashes Medicaid by at least \$306 billion over 10 years.² Medicaid is the primary source of health coverage for children.³ These cuts will jeopardize health benefits for the more than 35 million children—over half of all Medicaid recipients—who depend on the program to cover critical health screenings and medical treatment.⁴
- **Slashes food assistance:** President Trump has asked Congress to slash the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by \$214 billion by 2028—a cut of 31 percent. SNAP helps to put food on the table for low-income children; one in four children are served by SNAP, and in 2012, SNAP protected nearly 5 million children from poverty.⁵ The new budget also includes a \$215 million cut to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), which provides nutrition assistance to a combined nearly 8 million pregnant women, infants, and children.⁶
- **Threatens economic security:** The budget also jeopardizes the economic security of families of children with disabilities. President Trump plans to slash federal disability programs by \$72 billion. This includes the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, which provides modest but critical income support to the families of over 1.1 million children with disabilities in order to help cover the costs of the services and resources they need to thrive.⁷
- **Undercuts housing assistance:** Trump's budget targets a slew of affordable housing programs that help provide safe and stable housing for 4 million children; this includes an \$8.8 billion cut to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.⁸

Additionally, the budget axes the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program in its entirety, a utility relief program that enables millions of households—20 percent of which have a child under the age of 5—to keep their homes at temperatures that are safe for young children.⁹

- **Undermines child care and preschool:** Trump’s budget calls for the elimination of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, which funds critical afterschool programs for nearly 2 million low-income children and gives parents a safe place to send their children while they are at work.¹⁰ The budget also does nothing to support state preschool expansion through Preschool Development Grants, nor does it support a previously agreed upon bipartisan investment of \$5.8 billion to help families afford child care—even though an agreement has already been signed in to law.¹¹
- **Weakens K-12 education:** This year’s budget would slash \$7.1 billion from the Department of Education’s funding—a 10.5 percent decrease from 2017 levels.¹² The budget also doubles down on Trump’s call for private school vouchers, which allow taxpayer dollars to flow to unaccountable private schools at the expense of public education.

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Endnotes

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- 3 Tricia Brooks and Karina Wagnerman, “Snapshot of Children’s Coverage by Race and Ethnicity” (Washington: Center for Children and Families, 2017), available at <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2017/04/26/snapshot-of-childrens-coverage-by-race-and-ethnicity/>.
- 4 Medicaid.gov, “Medicaid Child and CHIP Total Enrollment in November 2017*,” available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-information/medicaid-and-chip-enrollment-data/report-highlights/child-and-chip-enrollment/index.html> (last accessed February 2018).
- 5 Steven Carlson and others, “SNAP Works for America’s Children” (Washington: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2016), available at <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/snap-works-for-americas-children>.
- 6 Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “Policy Basics: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children” (2017), available at <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/policy-basics-special-supplemental-nutrition-program-for-women-infants-and>.
- 7 Social Security Administration, “Monthly Statistical Snapshot, December 2017,” available at https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/quickfacts/stat_snapshot/#table3.
- 8 Alicia Mazzara, Barbara Sard, and Douglas Rice, “Rental Assistance to Families with Children at Lowest Point in Decade” (Washington: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2016), available at <https://www.cbpp.org/research/housing/rental-assistance-to-families-with-children-at-lowest-point-in-decade>.
- 9 Office of Community Services, “LIHEAP Report to Congress 2014,” available at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/liheap-report-to-congress-2014> (last accessed February 2018).
- 10 Pam Fessler, “Trump’s Budget Proposal Threatens Funding For Major After-School Program,” NPR, May 1, 2017, available at <https://www.npr.org/2017/05/01/526436087/trumps-budget-proposal-threatens-funding-for-major-after-school-program>; Afterschool Alliance, “21st Century Community Learning Centers: Providing Locally Designed Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs for Family” (2017), available at <http://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/21stCCLC-Overview-2017.pdf>.
- 11 Center for American Progress, “STATEMENT: CAP’s Katie Hamm Says Budget Deal Will Help More Working Families Afford Child Care,” Press release, February 9, 2018, available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/press/statement/2018/02/09/446291/statement-caps-katie-hamm-says-budget-deal-will-help-working-families-afford-child-care/>.
- 12 Stephanie Johnson, Neil Campbell, and Scott Sargrad, “Trump and DeVos Continue to Undermine Public Education with Their Proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Budget” (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2018), available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education-k-12/news/2018/02/12/446423/trump-devos-continue-undermine-public-education-proposed-fiscal-year-2019-budget/>.