

# THE CHILDREN'S BUDGET COALITION

## INVESTING IN THEIR FUTURE

### FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES

JUNE 2017

The Children's Budget Coalition (CBC) is made of up over 60 children-focused organizations who collectively are committed to ensuring that our nation's leaders prioritize robust federal investment in the critical programs that nurture children. More specifically, we strongly support robust funding for programs that impact children's development and wellbeing, particularly in the areas of health, education, nutrition, housing and welfare.

As Congress advances Fiscal Year 2018 (FY 18) budget and appropriations legislation, we ask you take into consideration our following priorities:

1. **Support mandatory programs that help vulnerable children and families afford basic needs including food, housing, health care and income security;**
2. **Increase the FY 18 302(a) allocation for the appropriations committee;**
3. **Increase the budget caps for non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending set in the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA; P.L. 112-25);**
  - a. **\$2.9 billion cut** to FY 17 NDD cap from \$518.5 billion to \$515.6 billion.
4. **Reverse the divestment trends in children's programs through opposing cuts to FY 18 NDD spending which total \$69.7 billion;**
  - a. **\$54 billion proposed cut** to NDD spending in President's FY 18 budget from \$516.6 billion to \$462 billion.
  - b. **\$12.8 billion estimated funding gap** to FY 18 NDD spending due to required spending on VA, Census and HUD Voucher renewals among other things.
5. **Support maintaining parity between NDD and defense discretionary spending; and**
6. **Increase 302(b) allocations for FY 18 over FY 17 enacted in the Labor-HHS, Agriculture, T-HUD and CJS appropriations bills.**

We are very concerned with two disinvestment trends for programs that benefit children as identified in First Focus' [2016 Children's Budget Book](#):

1. **Children's programs accounted for a mere 2.1 percent of all new total federal spending over the last five years.** Overall federal spending has increased by approximately 7.7 percent between 2011 and 2016. This increase was driven by mandatory spending, which increased by approximately 20 percent over the last six years. On the other hand, federal discretionary spending has decreased by approximately 4.6 percent over the last six years due mostly to sequestration cuts and budget caps.
2. **The share of total federal spending on children decreased 5.1 percent from 8.25 percent in 2014 to 7.83 percent in 2016.** Total federal spending on children has increased by approximately 2.0 percent between 2011 and 2016. This increase is at a slower rate than the increase of overall federal spending. As result, the share of total federal spending on children's programs accounted for only 7.83 percent of total government spending in 2016 which is a 5.1 percent decrease from 8.25 percent in 2014.

## MEMBERSHIP LIST

1. AASA, The School Superintendents Association
2. Afterschool Alliance
3. Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
4. American Academy of Pediatrics
5. American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO
6. American Psychological Association
7. Boys & Girls Club
8. Bread for the World
9. Care.com, Inc.
10. Child Care Aware
11. Child Welfare League of America
12. Children and Family Futures
13. Children's Advocacy Institute
14. Children's Defense Fund
15. Children's Health Fund
16. Children's Hospital Association
17. Citizens' Committee for Children of New York
18. Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning
19. Committee for Children
20. Communities In Schools
21. Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED)
22. Early Care & Education Consortium
23. Easterseals
24. Every Child Matters
25. Family Focused Treatment Association
26. First Focus Campaign for Children
27. Futures Without Violence
28. Institute for Child Success
29. Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect
30. March of Dimes
31. MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership
32. MomsRising
33. National Association for the Education of Young Children
34. National Association of Counsel for Children
35. National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
36. National Center for Healthy Housing
37. National Center on Shared Leadership®
38. National Crittenton Foundation
39. National Education Association
40. National Head Start Association
41. National Network for Youth
42. National Respite Coalition
43. National Title I Association
44. National WIC Association
45. National Writing Project
46. Parents Anonymous® Inc.
47. Parents Anonymous® National Parent Leadership Team®
48. Partnership for America's Children
49. Prevent Child Abuse America®
50. Public Advocacy for Kids
51. Save the Children
52. Save the Children Action Network
53. School Based Health Alliance
54. SchoolHouse Connection
55. Share Our Strength
56. Strengthening Families All Around the World, Inc.
57. Thousand Days
58. United Way Worldwide
59. Voice for Adoption
60. Voices for Progress
61. YMCA of the USA
62. Youth Development Institute of Puerto Rico
63. Youth Villages