The Children’s Budget Coalition is made up of over 80 children’s advocacy organizations with priorities across a diverse range of issues who come together to advocate collectively for children to be a top priority in federal budget and appropriations decisions. Children represent nearly a quarter of America’s population, yet their share of total federal spending is shrinking, hovering around just 8 percent, according to First Focus’ *Children’s Budget 2018*. A failure to invest in our children jeopardizes our country’s future. As Congress advances Fiscal Year 2020 (FY 20) appropriations legislation, we ask you to take into consideration our following priorities so that children’s needs do not go unmet:

1. **Raise the discretionary spending caps for FY 20 and FY 21 to ensure that essential programs supporting children and families can meet pressing needs and rising costs:** The Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA, P.L. 112-25), by subjecting non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending to unrealistic caps, has stunted growth across an array of critical programs serving children. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (BBA; P.L. 115-123) provided some much-needed relief, increasing discretionary spending caps for FY 18 and FY 19. As a result, Congress made essential investments in children and families. However, the FY 20 cap is slated to decrease NDD spending by $55 billion dollars, almost certainly jeopardizing key programs and services that benefit children and families. A near-term decision on FY 20 and FY 21 annual spending allocations would help to provide adequate time and sufficient funding for Congress to complete all twelve of the annual appropriations bills before the new fiscal year starts on October 1, 2019, without having to resort to draconian cuts. A timely budget caps deal will help reduce uncertainty and disruption in the budget process as well as discourage future government shutdowns.

2. **Increase the 302(b) allocations for subcommittees with jurisdiction over the largest number of NDD programs serving children:** Nearly 80 percent of the 180 programs tracked in Children’s Budget 2018 rely on NDD funding. The bulk of these programs come out of the Labor-Health and Human Services, Agriculture, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, Commerce, Justice and Science, and Interior subcommittee appropriations bills. We need to invest in each aspect of children’s wellbeing—but inadequate 302(b) allocations force appropriators to make spending decisions that pit vital children’s programs against each other.

3. **Support mandatory programs that help vulnerable children and families afford basic needs including food, housing, health care and income security:** We oppose the use of cuts to mandatory programs—whether by reduced funding or restrictive eligibility requirements—as an offset for any increased discretionary investment in children.

4. **Make decisions and structural changes that prioritize the needs of children:** A variety of pressing issues demand attention, from the need to rebuild our infrastructure, recover from natural disasters, and combat the opioid crisis to skyrocketing healthcare costs and high rates of child poverty. As Congress works to address these critical issues, we ask that you elevate the best interest of the child and ensure that our institutions and resources are dedicated to improving the lives of our nation’s children. The budget process itself contains structural inequalities that disadvantage children’s programs, for which spending is disproportionately discretionary, making it subject to annual debate, cuts, and other legislative changes. Funding for children is often temporary, capped, and lacks both built-in growth and dedicated revenue. We urge Congress to address these structural issues without taking shortcuts, such as automatic continuing resolutions.
MEMBERSHIP

1. 1000 Days
2. AASA, The School Superintendents Association
3. Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
4. Afterschool Alliance
5. Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
6. American Academy of Pediatrics
7. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
8. American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO
9. American Psychological Association
10. Association of School Business Officials
11. Boys & Girls Club
12. Bread for the World
13. Campaign for Youth Justice
14. Child Care Aware of America
15. Child Labor Coalition
17. Children and Family Futures
18. Children's Advocacy Institute
19. Children's Aid
20. Children's Defense Fund
21. Children's Health Fund
22. Children's Hospital Association
23. Citizens’ Committee for Children of New York
24. Coalition on Human Needs
25. Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning
26. Committee for Children
27. Communities In Schools
28. Early Care & Education Consortium
29. Every Child Matters
30. Families USA
31. Family Focused Treatment Association
32. Fight Crime: Invest in Kids
33. First Focus Campaign for Children
34. Futures Without Violence
35. Institute for Child Success
36. Institute for Educational Leadership
37. Jumpstart
38. Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect
39. March of Dimes
40. Mental Health America
41. MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership
42. MomsRising
43. Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse
44. National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement
45. National Association for the Education of Young Children
46. National Association of Counsel for Children
47. National Association of Elementary School Principals
48. National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA)
49. National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
50. National Association of School Nurses
51. National Early Childhood Program Accreditation
52. National Center for Healthy Housing
53. National Center on Shared Leadership®
54. National Crittenton Foundation
55. National Diaper Bank
56. National Education Association
57. National Head Start Association
58. National Network for Youth
59. National Recreation and Park Association
60. National Respite Coalition
61. National WIC Association
62. National Writing Project
63. Nurse Family Partnership
64. Parents Anonymous® Inc.
65. Parents Anonymous® National Parent Leadership Team®
66. Partnership for America's Children
67. Prevent Blindness
68. Prevent Child Abuse America®
69. Prosperity Now
70. Public Advocacy for Kids
71. Save the Children
72. Save the Children Action Network
73. School Based Health Alliance
74. SchoolHouse Connection
75. Share Our Strength
76. Strengthening Families All Around the World, Inc.
77. United Way Worldwide
78. Voice for Adoption
79. Voices for Progress
80. YMCA of the USA
81. Young Center
82. Youth Development Institute of Puerto Rico
83. Youth Villages