



The President submits a budget that would replace the current sequestration with new budget spending targets. Currently the budget spending targets for discretionary spending (that part that is decided by congressional through annual appropriations) is at \$1.017 trillion for both domestic spending and defense spending. The President is requesting an increase of \$74 billion, increasing discretionary spending to \$1.091 trillion. He would do this through some spending cuts and reallocations but would also increase some taxes—capital gains, corporate taxes, for example.

There is already opposition by the Congressional leadership to the President's budget particularly as it relates to tax changes. Despite this it may offer the potential for future increases to key children's programs-especially child care, pre-kindergarten and Head Start. There are also some smaller proposals regarding child welfare.

The Obama Administration's fiscal year (FY) 2016 budget repeats some of the key proposals of last year including the proposals regarding universal pre-kindergarten but it also includes some new initiatives within child welfare and major increases in child care and early childhood education.

In regard to child welfare the major proposal by the Administration is a re-submission of a jointly funded demonstration project between the Administration on Children and Families (ACF) and the Centers on Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that target better access to health care services framed around the goal of reducing the over use of psychotropic medication for children and youth in foster care.

There are also new initiatives of approximately \$58million to address family preservation (described as prevention) and post permanence services. The Administration proposes a renewal of the Family Connection Grants at \$15 million. They are also asking for \$30 million through Promoting Safe and Stable Families to assist tribes and rural areas to expand and strengthen and increase capacity child welfare support services.

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) remains intact but the Administration proposes an increase of \$300 million for an "Upward Mobility Project." The budget also proposes an extension for Home Visiting (MICEHV) with an increase from \$400 million to \$500 million.

In addition they propose a major expansion of Head Start and dramatic increases in child care subsidies through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).

The Administration is also proposing an extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) at \$14 billion. The extension is for four years (2019).

Title IV-E, Social Security Act

Title IV-E Foster Care Payments

As an entitlement, IV-E foster care funding is determined by the level of need and number of claims filed by states for reimbursement at the federal level. For 2016, the Administration projects that Title IV-E foster care maintenance and administrative costs will be at \$4.772 billion, an increase from the projected cost of \$4.581 billion in 2015—which is an adjustment up in cost from late last year. Total cost will likely change either upward or downward depending on eligibility and caseload factors. The funding will cover an estimated 168,900 children in foster care, which the Administration indicates is an increase of 6,600 children from the projected 2015 number. Again the 2015 number is also an increase from last year’s budget projections. Despite a decrease in eligibility resulting from the link to the 1996 AFDC standards, the Administration indicates that coverage was 51.8 percent in 2000 and now stands at 41 percent in 2014. For federal fiscal year 2013, over 402,000 children were in out-of-home (foster care), the highest number since 2010.

ACF-CMS Demonstration Projects On Over Prescription of Psychotropic Medication

The Administration is again requesting funding for a joint project by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to address the over use of psychotropic medications by promoting evidenced-based interventions targeting children in the foster care system. The Budget proposes, for each of the next five years, \$50 million a year through ACF matched by \$100 million a year through Medicaid. Funding would be used for competitive demonstration projects. States would receive performance-based Medicaid incentive payments to improve care coordination paired with ACF funding to states that support state efforts to build provider and systems capacity.

The capacity building through ACF would include: Enhancing child welfare workforce; Providing reliable screening and assessment tools; Coordination between child welfare and Medicaid especially Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT); Training for foster parents, adoptive parents, guardians, and judges; implementing an evaluation and providing data.

Prevention and Post-Permanency

The Administration proposes \$586 million over ten years (presumably \$58 million a year) in matching funds that would be based on a child’s case plan to prevent placement into foster care and to provide post-permanency services. The proposal calls for funding to be used for evidence-based practices that will reduce the likelihood that a child will be placed into foster care and to sustain permanency for recently placed children.

Family-based Foster Care-Congregate Care

An additional new budget initiative would attempt to reduce the use of congregate care by placing greater justification for such placements by the child welfare agency with increased oversight by the courts including a re-determination after six months. The proposal envisions a \$78 million cost in year one with overall savings in foster care placements of \$69 million over

ten years. The expanded coverage along with the increased oversight would provide support for specialized case management using smaller caseloads and specialized training for caseworkers to focus on “family-based care specialized casework.” The proposal also includes specialized training and salaries for foster parents who provide a therapeutic environment for a child in foster care.

Child Support and Foster Care Proposal

The Administration is again recommending reforms to the child support program that would assure that child support payments made on behalf of children in Foster Care to be used in the best interest of the child, rather than as general revenue for the state. In the past the Administration has suggested this reform to align with other child support provisions that seek to pass through collected funds to the family/children involved. Currently states are required to recover these funds under Title IV-E foster Care to reimburse the state and the federal government for part of the cost of care.

Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Payments

Title IV-E adoption assistance funding similar to foster care is based on claims filed by states for federal reimbursement. For 2016, the projected cost for Title IV-E adoption assistance payments and administrative costs are projected to be \$2.563 billion, an increase of \$53 million from FY 2015. An estimated 444,000 children will be helped by adoption assistance federal funding in FY 2015 which is a projected increase of 7,000.

Adoption assistance payments are designed to assist families that may need additional financial support when adopting a child who has special needs. States individually establish the definition of “special needs” children. Children considered special needs could include siblings with a goal of being adopted together, older children, children in care for several years, children with physical disabilities or children with other challenges, developmentally, physically or for health purposes. Most children in foster care are considered special needs.

When Congress tied eligibility for foster care funding to AFDC, the same link between AFDC and Adoption Assistance was also created. In 2008, the passage of the Fostering Connections Act (PL 110-351) created a gradual de-link of Adoption Assistance eligibility from the AFDC. Starting in fiscal year 2010, children newly adopted who were 16 or older were eligible without regard to AFDC eligibility. This has been adjusted downward each year. In 2015, all new special needs adoptions for children 6 or older are eligible for federal support. The link to AFDC will be completely eliminated by 2018.

Title IV-E Adoption and Kinship Incentives

The Administration requests \$38 million for this year’s adoption incentive fund which would be the same total agreed to in 2015 but a reduction of \$1 million from 2013. Last year Congress reauthorized the Incentive Fund to also base awards on increases in subsidized guardianships. It will award incentives based on increases in both adoptions and subsidized/kinship guardianship placements. If enough funds are not available each states bonus or incentive are reduced accordingly. Funding and appropriations vary by year depending on state success in moving

children to adoptive families. When Congress passed the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), they created this incentive fund under Title IV-E. If states increased the number of children adopted from foster care over a previous year's high mark, they are awarded an incentive from this appropriation. The reauthorization last year also re-set the baseline for making awards. In FY 2013 50,608 children were adopted from foster care while an additional 101,840 children awaited adoption. In FY 2013 an estimated 22,100 children are covered for subsidized legal kin guardianship under Title IV-E.

Title IV-E Tribal Foster Care and Adoption Assistance

As a result of the Fostering Connections to Success Act, \$3 million is allocated each year for technical assistance to tribal governments or consortia that seek to oversee their own Title IV-E programs. Funding is mandatory and provided each year. Planning grants, a prelude to taking over the program from the state, have been given to 22 tribes since FY 2009. In addition, the first direct tribal IV-E grantee began operation of its program in FY 2012.

The Administration is proposing an additional \$114 million over ten years to provide enhanced start-up funding for tribes seeking to implement their own child welfare programs.

Title IV-E Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payments

As a state optional entitlement, states may establish a program to support kinship-guardianship placements. The Administration projects that 25,100 children will be covered under this program in FY 2016 which represents an increase of 3,000 children above a revised increase for 2015. The cost of \$123 million in FY 2016 represents an increase of \$24 million from 2015. As of January 2014, 32 states have been approved to implement Title IV-E programs.

Title IV-E John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program

The John H. Chafee Independence program is set at \$140 million in mandatory funds. The (Title IV-E) Independent Living program is targeted to assist youth who have not been placed in a permanent family and who are aging out of foster care. There is no change in funding or the program. FY 2013, 23,090 young people exited foster care through emancipation—"aged out."

The administration also seeks \$43 million for Education and Training Vouchers in FY 2016. The proposed funding is the same as 2015. Unused funds by one state are re-distributed. The Administration is seeking legislative changes that would allow states to extend these vouchers to youth up to age 23 if a state has taken the option to extend foster care under Title IV-E foster care to age 21. This option was made available to states as part of *the 2008 Fostering Connections to Success Act*; approximately a dozen states have taken this option.

Title IV-B, Social Security Act

Title IV-B Part 1, Child Welfare Services (CWS)

Title IV-B, Child Welfare Services is funded at \$269 million the same as 2015. The total is maintenance of earlier cuts imposed through the sequestration process and continues cuts from the pre-sequestration levels of \$281 million in 2011. It was reauthorized in 2011 as part of the Children and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act at the same authorized level of

\$325 million annually. It has never been fully funded. Each state share is based on the state's population under age 21 as compared to other states. Funding can be used for a range of child welfare services, including prevention and early intervention. Some states may use their funds to address adoption and foster care expenses. Funding is subject to the sequestration cuts.

Child Welfare Training and Research

Housed under Title IV-B, the funding total under this category is proposed at \$16 million in FY 2016, which continues a reduction of \$ 8 million agreed to as part of the FY 2015 budget agreement. From this total:

- \$7 million has been allocated to promote research and training for the child welfare workforce. Funding helps to provide leverage to institutions of higher learning and other non-profits by supporting their on-going projects. This initiative has been in place for more than a decade.
- Child Welfare Innovation and Research of approximately \$9 million to continue funding for demonstration projects across the country to reduce foster care placements.

Family Connection Grants

The Administration proposes a restoration of these grants at the previous level of \$15 million. This was a \$15 million competitive grant created as part of the Fostering Connections to Success Act in 2008. Funding was mandatory but its authorization expired at the end of FY 2013 and Congress extended it last September for FY 2014 only.

Matching grants to states and tribes allow funding for kinship navigator programs, intensive family-finding programs, family group decision making and family-residential substance abuse treatment and counseling. Applicants apply to HHS for grants lasting 1 to 3 years. Funding is mandatory and has been fixed at \$15 million since its creation as part of the Fostering Connections to Success Act of 2008. The Administration is again requesting that Congress enact a reauthorization of the program through FY 2016 which would align its future reauthorization with the Title IV-B programs (CWS, PSSF).

Title IV-B part 2, Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF)

Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) is a combination of funding streams for different but related services. Like CWS, PSSF was reauthorized last year as part of the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act. In FY 2016, the President is requesting PSSF funding at the same levels but has added some additional request for separate purposes.

The funding for the original PSSF program has been divided into four broad categories: family preservation, family support, family reunification and adoption services. In addition, a portion of PSSF funding (\$30 million) is allocated for court improvement programs. Furthermore, \$20 million is designated for competitive grants to address substance abuse, while another \$20 million is set aside for workforce development. These workforce grants are allocated to states if they meet a requirement to visit children in foster care at least once a month.

Overall, PSSF receives \$345 million in mandatory funding as well as an additional allocation of discretionary spending. The President's budget allows for the continuation of discretionary funding at \$59 million in 2016 the same as FY 2015 but less than the \$62 million in pre-sequestration 2011. After allocating for the various funding categories and combining mandatory and discretionary spending, the approximate totals for FY 2016 will be: \$335 million for the four main services, \$30 million for Court Improvement, \$20 million for competitive grants to address substance abuse, and \$20 million for workforce improvements.

PSSF Discretionary Funding for Tribes, Rural Areas and Research

The Administration proposes an additional \$30 million in discretionary funding under PSSF. Of this total \$20 million would be designated to assist tribes in capacity building for various child welfare services such as family support and preservation. \$7 million will be designated for rural areas to build their capacity and the remaining \$3 million would be designated for research, evaluation and technical assistance.

Title IV-A, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Social Security Act

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) five year reauthorization ran out in FY 2010 but it is currently extended until the end of FY 2015 on September 30. The Administration proposes another extension and indicates a desire to work with Congress. The administration anticipates maintaining current spending in the TANF block grant at \$16.5 billion. The Administration also proposes a continuation of \$150 million for fatherhood initiatives and marriage promotion programs (\$75 million each). The Administration proposes taking \$10 million of TANF's \$608 million contingency fund (a separate fund from the base \$16.5 billion) to address program improvements, technical assistance to states, monitoring, research and evaluation.

Child Care/Child Care Development Block Grant/CCDG

Child Care Funding has three funding streams: discretionary funding, funding based on historic spending, and funding based on states matching federal funds. Discretionary funding is appropriated each year and provided to states both by a population formula while the mandatory funding is written into the TANF law and set for five or six years at a time. This mandatory funding is divided into two sets; one of which is allocated to states based on historic spending, while the second of which is provided to states only if each state provides a match in funding.

The President's initiative:

As was the case in last year's budget the President's vision for expanded prekindergarten (Pre-K) and early childhood education involves several pieces that would expand schools through pre-k and coordinate the range of related early childhood programs from home visitation to child care to Head Start. The budget requests major expansions in Pre-K funding and Early Head Start and less increases in child care and Head Start but closely tied to quality improvements. In addition the President seeks a major expansion of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).

Pre-Kindergarten

As part of the Administration's overall Pre-Kindergarten and Early Childhood Education initiative both the discretionary and mandatory funds would increase. The Administration requesting again \$750 million in start-up funds (mandatory/matching funds) implementation grants. In addition current development grants that have been awarded to states would increase from the FY 2015 total of \$353 million to \$403 million. Funds would require a match in state spending and revenue to fund the proposal is still tied to an increase in the tobacco tax.

CCDBG

As indicated last month, the Administration would provide a dramatic increase in child care subsidies targeted to a major expansion of infant and toddler care. Discretionary funding would increase from the current \$2.435 billion in FY 2015 to \$2.805 billion in FY 2016. Of this total increase \$266 million would be designated to implement the increased health, safety and quality improvements enacted as part of last year's reauthorization of the CCDBG. Another \$100 million of the increase would be designated to fund pilot projects to target services to working families to better address barriers to needed child care services.

The President's budget proposes a dramatic increase in mandatory funding for child care (as enacted as part of the TANF law). The President's budget increases current mandatory funding from \$ 2.917 billion to \$ 6.582 billion. Currently an approximate \$1.7 billion of this child care funding is currently awarded to states if they match spending. The proposed increase is targeted at providing child care to more than 1.1 million infants and toddlers at the end of ten years.

Head Start

Head Start funding is a major component of the President's plan. Overall Head Start would receive funding of \$10.118 billion and increase of more than \$1.5 billion from 2015. \$150 million would be designated for a continued expansion of Early Head Start, the high quality program that targets infants and toddlers. Another \$1.1 billion of the total increase would be designated to expand Head start programs to full-day and full-year programs.

Created in the 1960s, the Head Start program provides grants to local agencies with the aim of delivering comprehensive child development services to young children. Additionally, Head Start targets familial needs by supplying the family with essential supports and services. Although the program focuses in particular on preschoolers, in 1995, it expanded its focus to infants and toddlers with the creation of Early Head Start. Funding is subject to sequestration.

21st Century Learning Centers

21st century Community Learning Centers were created through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). These centers were established to support after-school programs and to expand coverage beyond traditional child care. Eligible programs include local educational agencies (LEAs), cities, counties, and community-based agencies. Applicants are required to plan their programs through a collaborative process that includes parents, youth, governmental agencies, and representatives of participating schools or local educational agencies. Funding is allocated through the US Department of Education. Funding will stay close to the FY 2015 level of \$1.151 billion increasing to \$1.152 billion.

Promise Neighborhoods

The Promise Neighborhoods program was created under the Obama Administration and is based on the model established by the Harlem Children's Zone. The goal is to establish a school-based program that joins together public, private, philanthropic and business community interests to develop a comprehensive model. Early on in a child's life and continuing through elementary and secondary school years, programs will wrap a range of services around the prospective student and family with a goal of preparing students for success all the way to college and later employment. The initial grants were for planning. The Administration is seeking an increase from the current \$58 million to \$150 million.

Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, Title V Social Security Act

Maternal and Child Health Block Grant

Enacted in 1935 as a part of the Social Security Act, Title V provides formula funding to all states to address maternal and child health programs. The main block grant will be funded at \$637 million in FY 2016 if the Administration's proposal is approved, approximately the same as this year. Of the total, 85 percent of funding is distributed to states with the remaining funds for national programs. States use funding for planning and allocating services to both mothers and children. States are required to work collaboratively with other organizations to conduct comprehensive needs assessments. Once needs are assessed, states must identify priorities to comprehensively address these needs and must serve as the payer of last resort for services that do not receive coverage from any other program.

Home Visitation Title V Social Security Act (MICEHV)

Created under the Affordable Care Act (ACA, PL 111-148) this program provides funding to all states to promote the use and expansion of home visitation programs. Funding must be used for evidenced-based models with a limited amount of funding available for innovative programs that show promise. To be eligible for funding, states are required to undergo a rigorous planning process and the home visitation programs must undergo substantial evaluation. Funding for the program is mandatory and includes scheduled increases. For FY 2015, funding is at \$400 million but it will expire this year. Last year Congress extended the program for one year, the President is requesting a long term extension with funding increasing to \$500 million in FY 2016.

Title XX, The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), Social Security Act

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) is a federal block grant and is an entitlement to the states. In federal fiscal year 2014, it was funded at \$1.57 billion as a result of the budget agreement (PL 113-67) that left a 5.1 percent cut in effect from the previous sequestration reductions. Funding is proposed at the pre-sequestration level of \$1.7 billion.

SSBG is generally the biggest federal source of funds of Child Protective Services (CPS), with approximately 41 states allocating around \$250 million in funds each year on purported CPS services. Part of that funding is funding transferred from the TANF block grant but even without those additional dollars SSBG still represents the biggest federal funding source of CPS. Almost all of the states will spend some portion of SSBG on protective services, foster care services, adoption services, services for displaced youth and other child welfare related services each year. However, it can vary from year to year. SSBG funds can be spent on more than 29 categories of

services that range from elderly services (e.g., home delivered meals) to children's services (e.g., child protection or child care) to disability services (e.g., to transportation or home chore services). States determine eligibility standards and can move dollars from year to year to address their most pressing needs.

Last month, the office of Community Services released two new annual reports on the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG). The [2011](#) and [2012](#) reports show similar results as the 2010 report and reaffirms how the \$1.7 billion in funding continues to support a range of child welfare services—especially as a prime funder of child protection. In addition it continues as a significant funder of domestic violence services, special services for the disabled and a range of services for all ages including case management, prevention and intervention and counseling services.

States can transfer up to 10 percent of their TANF block grant into SSBG. Generally states have transferred an annual total of \$1.1 billion (of the \$16.5 billion in TANF) but the 2012 report indicates that the amount of TANF transferred into SSBG has started to decrease especially after discounting the slight increase in 2010 which is likely the result of a temporary TANF boost from the stimulus funding. In 2012 the TANF transfer was down to just a little more than \$1 billion. Funds transferred into SSBG are to be spent on families at 200 percent of poverty or less.

The report breaks out each state's spending by 29 services both the direct SSBG funding and the TANF funding transferred into SSBG before being allocated.

Funds spent on *foster care* reached \$394 million in combined SSBG/TANF dollars with SSBG providing \$176 million not an insignificant total when you consider states spent \$1.3 billion in maintenance payments through the main federal source of funding, Title IV-E foster care funding in that same year.

Child Protective Services (CPS) received \$136 million in SSBG dollars and \$331 million when TANF funding is included. Dollars provided through SSBG either alone or combined with the TANF transfer far exceeds what the Congress appropriates through the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) which continues to decrease down to \$25 million in FY 2014. SSBG also provides \$73 million in *prevention and intervention* services serving more than 2 million children in duplicated counts.

The Administration seeks an additional \$300 million for a new "Upward Mobility Project" fund separate from the base SSBG block grant. The grant would be similar to social innovation projects or social impact bonds.

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), first authorized in 1974 (P.L. 93-247) is the only federal legislation exclusively dedicated to the prevention, assessment, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect. It is a continuum of child maltreatment services and supports. The three main funding streams from CAPTA are State Grants, Discretionary Grants for research and demonstration projects, and Community Based Grants to Prevent Child Abuse

and Neglect. The State Grants aim to help states improve their CPS systems and develop innovative approaches. To qualify for these grants, states must meet eligibility requirements, such as having a child protection system in place. Additionally, states must enact laws preserving victim confidentiality, appoint Guardians Ad Litem, and establish citizen review panels.

CAPTA discretionary funds support state efforts to improve their practices in preventing and treating child abuse and neglect. Funds support program development, research, training, technical assistance, and the collection and dissemination of data to advance the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. These funds also support the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, the only federal data collection effort to annually determine the scope of child maltreatment. Funding also supports the National Office of Child Abuse and Neglect, the National Resource Center on Child Maltreatment, and the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect.

The Community-Based Grants support state efforts to develop, operate, and expand a network of community-based, prevention-focused family support programs that coordinate resources among a range of existing public and private organizations. Funding is allocated to states by a formula based on the number of children in a state's population.

The Administration proposes the same level of funding for two of the three CAPTA-related grants for FY 2016. *State Grants* would be funded at \$25 million, *CAPTA Community-Based Grants to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect* would be funded at \$40 million, but CAPTA Discretionary Grants would be funded at \$49 million instead of the current \$29 million. The first two funding streams are a million to two million below the pre-sequestration levels.

Increased Discretionary CAPTA Grants

The additional funding for discretionary grants would provide \$15 million to prevent traffickers from “luring children and youth in the child welfare system into prostitution and other forms of criminal activity”. The remaining \$5 million would be allocated to competitive to identify and evaluate best practices for child protection investigation.

Abandoned Infants

The Abandoned Infants program is reauthorized as part of the CAPTA reauthorization. Funding is allocated to public and private non-profit programs to prevent abandoned infants and to provide respite care in addition to safe havens for infants. Requested funding for FY 2016 is identical to 2015, \$11 million.

The administration is seeking a re-design of the Abandoned Infants program. The program gets reauthorized with CAPTA. The program has been funded at \$11 million for more than a decade and addresses instances when an infant may be abandoned in safe places such as hospitals. Originally (in the late 1980s) numbers had been driven by the crack epidemic and the spread of AIDS. Citing reduced numbers of abandoned infants, the Administration is requesting a re-direction in the program’s mission. The reauthorization request updates to the program including re-naming it to Protecting Abandoned and At Risk Infants and Toddlers in order to

modify the program so that it can better address the current needs of at-risk families with infants and toddlers. Citing the fact that infants and toddlers are one of the fastest growing groups being served by child welfare and child protective services the Administration is attempting to use the reauthorization as a way to focus greater attention on this population.

Adoption Opportunities

The Adoption Opportunities program was established in 1978 (P.L. 95-266) and was most recently reauthorized in 2003 (P.L.108-36, with CAPTA). Funding provided for Adoption Opportunities is administered by HHS and is distributed through competitive grants and contracts. The program provides grants to address post-adoption services, the recruitment of minority families and the adoption of older children. Programs such as AdoptUSKids are a national example of some of the programs funded through Adoption Opportunities. In 2015, Adoption Opportunities was funded at \$39 million in FY 2015 and the Administration is seeking \$42 million in FY 2016. The Adoption Opportunities program increased from \$26 to \$39 million (five years ago) when the Adoption Awareness Program (\$12 million) was eliminated as a standalone program. (The Adoption Awareness Program was ultimately combined with Adoption Opportunities on account of their shared mission).

Non-CAPTA Child Abuse Prevention and Support

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)

The Administration proposes a slight increase for the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). The funding is found in the Department of Justice. They propose to fund CASAs in FY 2016 at \$6 million, the same as FY 2015. CASA's are trained volunteer adults who are appointed by the courts as officers of the courts to assist abused and neglected children. Their responsibility is to make recommendations to the judge about what is in the best interest of the child.

Victims of Child Abuse

The Administration's Department of Justice budget also includes a proposal to reduce funding for the Victims of Child Abuse program to \$10 million, a reduction from the FY 2015 total of \$17 million. Currently the funds help maintain over 750 Children's Advocacy Centers across the country. The centers goals are to work with professionals from law enforcement to child protection agencies to ensure that investigations of abuse both physical and sexual are conducted in a way that does not further victimize the child. The National Children's Alliance indicates that more than 286,000 children were helped in 2012 and that the Centers provided child sexual abuse prevention training to approximately 500,000 people including some school personal. The recent child sexual abuse prosecutions involving a former Penn State coach suggested a lack of basic training of state-mandated child abuse and neglect reporters.

Vulnerable Children and Youth

Consolidated Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs

This program is actually comprised of two: the Basic Center Program and the Transitional Living Program. The Basic Center program funds community-based programs that provide crisis intervention, temporary shelter counseling and family reunification. Centers will provide up to

21 days of shelter for a maximum of 20 youth. Funds are distributed to states by formula. The Transitional Living Program provides similar grants for youth age 16 to 22 who are living in adult-supervised group homes. Funding lasts up to 18 months. These are youth who cannot live safely at home. Under the Administration request funding would increase to \$104 million (\$54 million for Basic Centers, \$50 million Transitional Living) an increase from the current FY 2015 total of \$97.3 million (\$53 million for the Basic Centers, \$44 million for Transitional Living).

In addition, for FY 2016, the Administration proposes \$2 million to develop national data on the number of homeless youth.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth

Funding for this program would receive an increase to \$ 72 million from the FY 2015 for a total of \$65 million. Limited funding is provided to states to assist homeless children in continuing their education despite the loss of their permanent home. Along with these funds, states are to meet specified safeguards and requirements, including having a homeless liaison designated in each school district. States must also offer transportation to and from the school of origin, immediate school enrollment if a child has moved to a new school district, continued enrollment in the school of origin if requested, and a prohibition against segregating homeless students.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act: Infants and Toddlers (IDEA Part C)

The President is requesting an increase to \$504 million for IDEA Part C. Current funding is \$439 million in FY 2015. IDEA Part C provides formula grants to all states to help create systems of coordinated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary, interagency programs that will provide early intervention to children with disabilities, aged birth through two. The targeted population includes families with infants and toddlers with disabilities that are experiencing developmental delays in one or more areas, including cognitive development, physical development, communication development, socio-emotional development, or adaptive development. The intervention may also include children who have a diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay. States have the discretion to provide services to infants and toddlers who are at risk of having substantial developmental delays if they do not receive appropriate early intervention services.

February 3, 2015

Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2016) President's Request

Program Name or Funding Source	Final FY 2015 Federal Budget	President's FY 2016 Request		
Programs Established Through the Social Security Act				
Title IV-E:				
Foster Care ^a	4.581 billion	4.772 billion		
Preservation/post permanence	0	\$58 million		
Family-Foster Care	0	6.9 million		
Foster Care Joint Project with Medicaid on use of psychotropic medication ¹	0	50 million		
Adoption Assistance ^a	2.510 billion	2.563 billion		
Adoption Incentives	38 million	38 million		
Kinship/Guardianship Assistance ^a	109 million	123 million		
Chafee Independent Living Program ^b	140 million	140 million		
Education and Training Vouchers	43 million	43 million		
Tribal F Care/ Adoption Technical Assistance ^a	3 million	3 million		
Title IV-B:				
Child Welfare Services (CWS)	269 million	269 million		
Child Welfare Training, Research and Training ²	7 million	7 million		
Child Welfare ₂ Innovation	9 million	9 million		
Family Connections ³ Grants ^b	Authorization expired	15 million		
Promoting Safe and Stable Families, ⁴ (PSSF)	335 million	335 million		
Court Improvement Fund ^b (PSSF)	30 million	30 million		
Substance Abuse Partnership Grants ^b (PSSF)	20 million	20 million		
Workforce State Grants ^b (PSSF)	20 million	20 million		
New Proposal Tribal and Rural Assistance (PSSF)	0	30 million (\$20 million to build tribal capacity \$7 million to build rural capacity \$3 million research/evaluation)		

¹ Proposal for a joint project with CMS to address the over-use of psychotropic medication for children in foster care

² In the budget line item, the training and innovation are combined for a total of \$15 million. Funding for National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-being (NSCAW) comes from here.

³ Requires a reauthorization, funding expired on October 1, 2014.

⁴ Includes mandatory and annual appropriation (of up to \$200 million) additional funds, for FY 2015 discretionary funding at \$59 million

Program Name or Funding Source	Final FY 2015 Federal Budget	President's FY 2016 Request		
Title IV-A:				
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families^{b 5} (TANF)	16.500 billion	16.500 billion		
TANF Fatherhood, Marriage and Family Innovation^b	150 million	150.0 million		
Child Care and Development Fund^{b 7}	2.917 billion	6.582 billion		
Additional Social Security Act Programs:				
Home Visitation (Maternal and Child Health Block Grant) (Title V)^b	400 million	500 million		
Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (Title V)	637 million	637 million		
Social Services Block Grant (SSBG/Title XX)^b	1.577	1.7 billion		
SSBG –Upward Mobility Project	0	\$300 million		
Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) State Grants	25 million	25 million		
CAPTA Discretionary Grants	29 million ⁶	49 million		
CAPTA Community Based Grants	40 million	40 million		
Abandoned Infants	11 million	11 million		
Adoption Opportunities	39 million ⁷	42 million		

⁵ Congress extended funding for until October 1, 2015, funding must still be extended again either as five year or temporary reauthorization.

⁶ New \$15 million for to address trafficking in prostitution and other forms criminal activity & \$5 million evaluation and research in child protection practices

⁷ Funding is part of TANF law and is mandatory funding. The increase would be allocated to states as part of the child care matching fund.

Department of Justice			
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)	6 million	6 million	
Children’s Advocacy Centers	17 million	10 million	
Program Name or Funding Source	Final FY 2015 Federal Budget	President’s FY 2016 Request	
Early Childhood Education & Education			
Child Care Development Block Grant	2.435 billion	2.805 billion	
Head Start	8.598 billion	10.118 billion	
21st Century Community Learning Centers	1.151 Billion	1.152 billion	
Pre-School Development Grants	353 million	403 million	
Pre-School for All Implementation Grants⁸	0	750 million	
Promise Neighborhoods	58 million	150 million	
Vulnerable Children and Youth:			
Victims of Trafficking (HHS) Refugee Assist	16 million	22 million	
Consolidated Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs (HHS)	97 million \$53 million housing \$44 million transitional living	104 million \$54 million housing \$50 million transitional living	
Study of Runaway Homeless Youth	0	2 million	
McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth (Education)	65 million	72 million	
Individuals Disabilities Education Act , Infants & Toddlers (IDEA Part C)	439 million	504 million	

Last Updated 2/03/15

⁸ First installment of President’s Pre-K proposal, mandatory funding with revenue generated through tobacco tax increase

Footnotes

^a Entitlement program—Although included in the annual appropriations bills, funding levels projected and set based on the number of eligible persons, levels will be adjusted throughout fiscal year.

^b Mandatory funding—levels written into law, generally for a five year period. Appropriators unlikely to change levels.

^c Requires a reauthorization by authorizing committees: Senate Finance and House Ways and Means