The President's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Request

On Tuesday, May 23, the President submitted the full fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget to complete the details to his budget outline released in March 2017. FY 2018 begins on October 1, 2017.

This full budget, titled *A New Foundation for American Greatness*, details spending cuts that will allow for an increase in Defense Department spending that totals an additional $43 billion. Defense spending was increased by the just-completed FY 2017 appropriations. This budget proposal claims to balance the budget by 2027 by dramatic economic growth (three percent per year over ten years), budget cuts in discretionary spending, and cuts to mandatory/entitlement spending without touching Social Security and Medicare.

Within the Department of Health and Human Services, discretionary spending is reduced to $69 billion from approximately $77 billion in 2016. This will result in a cut of over 13 percent if applied across the board, according to some calculations.

President Trump proposes the following:

- Elimination of the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)
- Elimination of the 21st Century Afterschool Learning Centers
- Elimination of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Elimination of the Community Services Block Grant (HHS)
- Elimination of the Community Development Block Grant (Housing)
- Cuts to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) of $1.1 billion to the base grant of $16.5 billion and elimination of the $608 million contingency fund
- Cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-food stamps)
- Cuts to Medicaid by requiring states to take either a per capita cap or block grant

The budget does not include a block grant of Title IV-E, and most of the direct child welfare spending is left intact at levels equal to FY 2017.

It should be noted, however, that SSBG provided 11 percent of federal child welfare spending in 2014 (Child Trends Survey of states). At the same time, TANF provided 22 percent of federal child welfare spending, according to the same survey. As a result, a full 33 percent of federal child welfare spending would be severely cut or eliminated. In fact, the budget explanation indicates that since they will eliminate SSBG, the ten percent that is transferred from TANF to SSBG is the rationale for the ten-percent cut to TANF.

Regarding SSBG, the Administration's rationale is:

"The Budget proposes to eliminate the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) because it lacks strong performance measures, is not well targeted, and is not a core function of the Federal Government. States do not have to demonstrate that they are using funds effectively in order to continue receiving funding. In addition, SSBG funds services that are also funded through other Federal programs, such as early childhood education services funded through Head Start and child welfare services funded by Title IV-E programs."

Despite this rationale, under this budget Head Start would be below 2016 funding levels. Child care would equal 2016 funding levels. Child care demands are increasing as a result of need and increased demand for funding and services – an outcome of the 2014 reauthorization that expanded requirements regarding service and quality.

SSBG is still a bigger funding source for child protective services (CPS) than any other federal source, especially considering recent cuts to the Child Welfare Services (CWS), and the Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) programs. In addition, recent legislative proposals (including the Families First Prevention Services Act and requirements regarding plans of safe care under CAPTA) have not provided increased funding for such CPS needs.

Finally, it should be noted that the Administration proposes that TANF be cut by 10 percent. Part of the rationale appears to be related to the state's ability, since 1996, to transfer 10 percent of TANF into SSBG. The explanation seems to be that if there is no SSBG, there is no need to transfer this funding. Both SSBG and TANF provide approximately 30 percent of total federal child welfare spending, according to the 2014 survey of states by Child Trends (20 percent TANF and 10 percent SSBG).

A state specific example of how significant SSBG and TANF are to child welfare is the state of Florida. According to another Child Trends survey, in 2010 the state of Florida had a statewide waiver of Title IV-E Foster Care funding. Also in that year, the Title IV-E waiver provided Florida with $179 million while TANF provided $153 million and SSBG provided $146 million of the state's total federal child welfare spending.

Key Children's Programs Monitored or Followed by CWLA

Statements *written in italics* are taken from the Administration's budget volume, ***Major Savings and Reforms BUDGET OF THE U. S. GOVERNMENT Fiscal Year 2018.***

Title IV-E, Social Security Act

Title IV-E Foster Care Payments

As an entitlement, Title 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 2018, the Administration projects that Title IV-E foster care maintenance and administrative costs will be at $5.537

billion, an increase from the projected cost of $4.772 billion in 2016. Total costs have been increasing over the past two years due to an increase in foster care placements. The Administration also projects an increase of approximately $5 million due to the proposed elimination of SSBG. The increased funding likely also includes recent increases and adjustments to some states arrangements under the Title IV-E waivers.

The funding will cover an estimated 176,000 children in foster care, which the Administration indicates is an increase of approximately 2,000 from the final 2017 projected population. Again, the 2018 number is also an increase from last year's budget projections.

For federal fiscal year 2015 (last complete data), more than 427,000 children were in out-of-home (foster) care, representing the third straight year of increases in foster care placements — and the most since 2009, when there were 418,000 children in foster care.

Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Payments

Title IV-E adoption assistance funding like foster care is based on claims filed by states for federal reimbursement. For 2018, the projected cost for Title IV-E adoption assistance payments and administrative costs are projected to be $2.867 billion, an increase from the total of $2.562 billion in FY 2016. An estimated 499,000 children will be helped by adoption assistance-related federal funding in FY 2018, which is a projected increase of 20,000 over 2016.

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 any child in foster care; siblings with a goal of being adopted together; older children; children who have been in care for several years; or children with disabilities or other developmental, health, or physical challenges.

When Congress tied eligibility for foster care funding to 1996 AFDC eligibility standards, 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, newly adopted children who were 16 or older were eligible without regard to AFDC eligibility. This has been adjusted downward each year. In 2018, all new special needs adoptions are eligible for federal support. The link to AFDC will be eliminated by FY 2018.

Title IV-E Adoption and Kinship Incentives

The Administration requests the same total for this year's adoption incentive fund: $37.9 million. Congress once again must reauthorize the Incentive Fund as part of the Title IV-B programs. It was last reauthorized in 2014 and then extended through the FY 2017 appropriations through the continuing resolution and then the final appropriations. It will expire along with the Title IV-B programs at the end of September. The fund was adjusted in the 2014 reauthorization to base awards on increases in subsidized guardianships in addition to adoptions. It now awards 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 and now kinship families. When Congress passed the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), they created this incentive fund under Title IV-E. If states increase the number of children adopted from foster care over a previous year's high mark, they are awarded an incentive from this appropriation.

The next awards will cover adoptions and kinship placements that took place in FY 2016 with the dollars coming from FY 2017. Total funding awarded last year was approximately $18 million, despite the appropriations of $38 million. Eighteen million dollars was distributed in this latest round because, as has been the case since the creation of the incentive fund, HHS made up for a shortfall of funding in the previous year by taking from current appropriations.

In FY 2015 (latest data) 53,549 children were adopted from foster care and 111,820 children in foster care were waiting to be adopted. The amount of both adoptions and children waiting to be adopted increased. In 2014, the number of children waiting had been 108,189; the number of adoptions had been 50,625.

The 2014 reauthorization through the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act) changed the incentive fund in several ways:

- In addition to rewarding an increase in adoption from foster care, states are awarded based on increases in subsidized guardianships.

- The awards were adjusted in terms of categories of adoptions/guardianship placements so that $5,000 is earned per increased adoptions; $4,000 is earned for overall kinship placements; $7,500 is earned per pre-adolescent (ages 9-14) adoption/guardianship placements; and $10,000 is earned per increase in in older adoption/kinship placements (ages 14 and older).

- The awards as always are based on an increase over the previous year, but this formula is based on a rate increase instead a specific number. That is intended to allow states that have been reducing their foster care population (thus reducing the pool of children waiting for adoption) to receive an award for positive permanency policies.

- All awards for guardianships are new , as is the subcategory targeting ages 9-14. This is an attempt to place a greater focus on a population that has shown an increased presence in the waiting-to-be-adopted category.

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 more than 22 tribes since FY 2009.

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 32,000 children will be covered under this program in FY 2017 which represents an increase of 3,000 children above a revised increase for 2016. The cost of $181 million in FY 2018 represents an increase of $58 million from 2016. As of January 2015, 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 Foster Care 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 the mandatory funding total for FY 2018. In FY 2015 (latest data) 20,789 young people exited foster care through emancipation—"aged out." This is the lowest number since 2003 and it continues a steady decline in the number of youth aging out of care from a recent high of 29,556 in 2008.

The administration also seeks $43 million for Education and Training Vouchers in FY 2018. The proposed funding is the same as 2017. Unused funds by one state are redistributed.

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 2017. The total involves 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, was scheduled for a reauthorization last year, and must be reauthorized by the end of this fiscal year. Since 1980 it has been authorized for up to $325 million, which is funded through the annual appropriations process. It has never been fully funded. Each state's 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 of child abuse, prevention of foster care placements, and early intervention. Some states may use their funds to address adoption and foster care expenses.

Child Welfare Training and Research
Housed under Title IV-B, the funding total under this category is proposed at *$18 million in FY 2017.* In 2016, this line was split between:

- $7 million that 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 $11 million to continue funding for demonstration projects across the country to reduce foster care placements.

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 in 2011 as part of the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act. Both Title IV-B part 1 (Child Welfare Services) and this Title were to be reauthorized as part of the proposed Families First Prevention Services Act. When that legislation failed in December 2016, Congress extended these two Title IV-B programs through the 2017 appropriations. In FY 2018, the President is requesting PSSF funding at the same levels for the four basic services, as well as the set-asides for courts and state grants.

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 (CIP). 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.

In 2017, PSSF receives $345 million in mandatory funding as well as an additional allocation of discretionary spending of $59 million. Currently in 2017, after allocating for the various funding categories and combining mandatory and discretionary spending, the approximate totals for FY 2017 is $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.

Under the 2018 budget request, the Administration is seeking level funding in both mandatory and discretionary funding of $59 million.

Substance Abuse Enhanced Funding (PSSF)
The Administration, through reauthorization of PSSF, would maintain the $20 million for workforce improvements, $30 million for Court Improvements and $20 million for competitive substance abuse (regional partnerships) grants. Last year, the Obama Administration indicated that the rate of infants entering child welfare systems rose from 10.8 per 1,000 to 11.4 per 1,000 in 2014 over 2013 and that 30 percent of foster care placements were impacted by parental substance use.

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 2017 through the appropriations bill signed in April. Since it expired, Congress and the Administration have agreed to a series of short-term extensions ranging from a few months to a year at a time. Since its creation, TANF has lost more than 30 percent of its value due to inflation.

The Administration proposes the first cut to the base grant since it was created in 1996. In total, TANF would be cut by more than $1.7 billion. One cut would result from the elimination of the TANF Contingency Fund, which is now at $608 million. In addition, the Administration seeks to reduce base funding by 10 percent.

The Administration states: *"The Budget would reduce the TANF block grant by 10 percent, which aligns with the Budget proposal to eliminate the SSBG. While the proposal would reduce the amount available to States for cash assistance and other benefits that promote self-sufficiency, the proposal also recognizes that TANF's flexible spending rules have resulted in States using a large portion of TANF funds for benefits and services that do <u>not directly serve the core intent of the program</u> – to help low-income families meet their basic needs and move them towards self-sufficiency. Under the proposal, States would continue to have broad flexibility in determining how to spend their remaining TANF block grant funds, and could choose to focus a greater share on welfare-to-work activities."*

This is a somewhat ironic rationale, since the first of TANF's four purposes is "*Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or the homes of relatives.*"

The rationale appears to be that with SSBG eliminated, and, in turn, each state's ability to transfer up to 10 percent of their TANF funds into SSBG, TANF funds are no longer needed.

Early Childhood Education and Care 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 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.

Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)

The CCDBG generally refers to all child care funding both the discretionary (appropriated) funds and the mandatory funds written into the TANF law. Both funding sources are covered by the same CCDBG regulations, currently pending an update.

The Administration budget suggests they are proposing a slight increase in funding for child care based on the Continuing Resolution (CR) enacted for the first part of FY 2017. Ultimately, that CR was replaced by a final appropriations bill that modestly increased child care funding. As a result, the Administration's budget proposal would not increase child care funding and instead would actually cut funding. This would likely be the first cut to overall CCDBG funding since before the enactment of TANF in 1996. Discretionary funding would decrease to $2.761 billion in FY 2018 from $2.856 billion in FY 2017.

Head Start

Head Start is in a similar circumstance as child care funding. The Administration claims a very slight increase in Head Start funding based on what was included in the CR. In fact, funding of $9.151 billion in 2018 would be a cut from the FY 2017 total of $9.253 billion.

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 families 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
The President proposes to eliminate the 21st Century Community Learning Centers for a total cut of $1.191 billion. The 21st Century 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 U.S. Department of Education.

The current funding level represented an increase of $25 million by Congress for 2017 in the bill just approved in April.

The Administration indicates that, "…*data strongly suggest that the 21st CCLC is not generating the benefits commensurate with an annual investment of more than $1 billion in limited Federal education funds. Moreover, the provision of before- and after-school academic enrichment opportunities may be better supported with other Federal, State, local or private funds, including the $15 billion Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies program.*

Child Care services funded under CCDBG are restricted to children to the age of 14. This program was created through and is housed in the Education Department to in part address school-based programs directed to older youth.

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 through college and later employment. The initial grants were for planning. The Administration is seeking level funding at $73 million in 2018, the same as 2017.

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 with an increase to $667 million in FY 2018 compared to a FY 2017 total of $641 million. Of the total, 85 percent of funding is distributed to states, with the remaining funds reserved 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 (MIECHV)
Created under the Affordable Care Act (ACA, PL 111-148), the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) 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. In FY 2016, funding was extended for a two-year reauthorization.

The Administration proposes a two-year extension of MIECHV at the same funding level of $400 million, well short of supporter's advocacy of a five-year extension with and eventual doubling of funding over five years.

Title IXX, Medicaid

The Administration, regardless of the outcome in the health care debate, proposes to turn Medicaid into a block grant. States would get a choice between a funding program based on a per capita cap or state would have an option to take it as a block grant.

The Administration states: "*To realign financial incentives and provide stability to both Federal and State budgets, the Budget proposes to reform Medicaid by giving States the choice between a per capita cap and a block grant starting in 2020, which would empower States to innovate and refocus their Medicaid programs on the most vulnerable populations. In addition, the Budget would provide States with more flexibility to control costs and design individual, State-based solutions to provide better care to Medicaid beneficiaries."*

Medicaid was created in 1965 along with Medicare. It serves the poor while Medicare provides coverage to those 65 and older. Medicaid provides health coverage to millions of low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults, and people with disabilities. It is also the biggest funder of long-term care coverage available through the federal government including those who are covered by Medicare.

Medicaid is administered by states and is matched by the federal government with at least half the health costs paid for by the federal government with some state getting as much as 75 percent of their costs covered by the federal government. More than 69 million people are covered by Medicaid. Nearly 49 million children, combined, are covered by Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Medicaid helps state and local agencies get treatment to children in foster family homes, children with special needs in residential treatment, children who move from foster care to guardianship, and those with special needs adopted from foster care. Medicaid allows for important therapeutic case management and therapeutic treatment; colocation of health experts in child welfare offices; services and treatment for children in foster care with multiple complex needs; and assistance for their parents, which helps shorten their stays in foster care and reunite families.

Medicaid is also critical to expanded access to substance use treatment. Access to such treatment can be a major factor in child welfare, treatment for parents is critical. According to the National Center on Behavioral Health, many states with the highest opioid overdose death rates have used Medicaid to expand access to medication-assisted treatment. This includes 49.5 percent of medication-assisted treatment in Ohio, 44.7 percent in West Virginia, 44 percent in Kentucky, 34.2 percent in Alaska, and 29 percent in Pennsylvania.

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

The President's budget proposes a complete elimination of the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), eliminating the $1.7 billion funding source for child welfare, domestic violence, aging, disabilities, and other human services funding.

The Administration states: "*The Budget proposes to eliminate the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) because it lacks strong performance measures, is not well targeted, and is not a core function of the Federal Government. States do not have to demonstrate that they are using funds effectively in order to continue receiving funding. In addition, SSBG funds services that are also funded through other Federal programs, such as early childhood education services funded through Head Start and child welfare services funded by Title IV-E programs.*"

SSBG is a federal block grant and is an entitlement to the states. In federal fiscal year 2014-2016, 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.

Converted into a block grant from an entitlement structure under President Ronal Reagan, SSBG is generally the biggest federal source of funds of Child Protective Services (CPS), with approximately 41 states allocating around $200 million in funds each year on CPS services. Some funding for some states 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 potion 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.

SSBG is also vital to other human services, some of which impact on child well-being including the funding that is dedicated to addressing adult protective services such as domestic violence prevention. In 2014, 37 states utilized funds in this way, with states such as New York and Texas investing significant funds ($66 million and $39 million respectively); 21 states use SSBG to fund special services for the disabled, 17 provide services to youth at risk, and 16 strengthen their home-delivered meals programs by using SSBG.

The rationale for eliminating SSBG is that it is a block grant with too much flexibility and not enough accountability. That was the budgetary arrangement that President Reagan and the Congress struck in 1981—less accountability and more flexibility in exchange for eliminating the entitlement nature of the Title. Eliminating it now guarantees vital human services and more importantly adults and children will be hurt—especially in cash-strapped states.

States can transfer up to 10 percent of their TANF block grant into SSBG as a result of the 1996 TANF law. Generally, states have transferred an annual total of $1.1 billion (of the $16.5 billion in TANF).

For more information go *here* and for a copy of a national letter of support for SSBG go *here*

Title XXI, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) has had a significant impact on reducing the number of uninsured children. Approximately 9 million children are covered through CHIP, with additional children getting covered through Medicaid as a result of CHIP outreach efforts. CHIP's funding is due for reauthorization this year.

The Administration proposes a limited two-year extension of funding which is likely to add instability to a program that has been bipartisan and stable. The Administration argues that extending CHIP funding for two years provides stability to states and families while the future of the program is addressed alongside other health reforms.

The Administration also proposes that: "*This proposal ends the 23 percentage point increase in the enhanced Federal match rate and the current law maintenance of effort requirement after FY 2017. This funding extension would also cap the level at which States could receive the CHIP enhanced Federal matching rate at 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. These provisions would return the focus of CHIP to the most vulnerable and low-income children*."

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 established the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) under title XXI of the Social Security Act. Title XXI provides Federal matching funds to States to enable them to extend coverage to uninsured children from low-income families. States are able to use title XXI funds for obtaining health benefit coverage for uninsured children through a separate CHIP program, a CHIP Medicaid expansion program, or a combination of both. The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (P.L. 111–3, CHIPRA) reauthorized the CHIP program and appropriated funding for CHIP through fiscal year 2013. CHIPRA made some modifications to the program, including increased funding for states and territories, bonus payments for states that exceed Medicaid child enrollment targets, and support for child health quality and outreach activities.

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 2018. State Grants would be funded at $25 million, CAPTA Community-Based Grants to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect would be funded at $40 million, and CAPTA Discretionary Grants would be funded at $33.

Abandoned Infants
The Abandoned Infants program is authorized as part of the CAPTA reauthorization. In FY 2016 Congress de-funded it at $0. Funding was allocated to public and private nonprofit programs to prevent abandoned infants and to provide respite care in addition to safe havens for infants. The Administration does not seek to restore it. Congress has not funded it since that point and it will likely be eliminated in the next CAPTA reauthorization whenever that occurs.

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) and requires a reauthorization most likely as part of CAPTA. In 2011, the Adoption Opportunities program increased from $26 to $39 million 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.

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 2017, Adoption Opportunities was funded at $39 million and the Administration is seeking a significant cut of $9 million, indicating the budget *"makes a targeted reduction to technical assistance efforts in the Adoption Opportunities Program."*

Non-CAPTA Child Abuse Prevention and Support

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)
The Administration proposes level funding for the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). The funding is found in the Department of Justice. They propose to fund CASAs in FY 2018 at $9 million, the same as 2017.

CASAs 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 continued funding for the Victims of Child Abuse program at $20 million, the same level as FY 2017.

Currently the funds help to 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 that 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 at the same level as FY 2017 at $101 million ($54 million for the Basic Centers, $48 million for Transitional Living).

McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth
Funding for this program would receive a decrease back to the $70 million level provided in 2016. For FY 2017, the program was increased to a total of $77 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 level funding of $458 million for IDEA Part C the same as FY 2017.

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.

Budgets and Programs Of Significance Due to Their Cuts

SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program—formerly food stamps)—Cuts Starting at $4.6 billion

The largest nutrition program authorized through the Agriculture Department is more commonly known as food stamps. In recent years it has functioned more through electronic transfers (ATM) systems. An entitlement program that became a critical support during the Great Recession that responded to need much more rapidly than other programs such as TANF it has been the target of some critics that feel it increased too much during the recession. The Administration is seeking increased work requirements, restrictions on eligibility, capping and eliminating benefits. They are also proposing a state match that will increase over time.

Administration says: The Budget proposes a suite of legislative proposals aimed at targeting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to the neediest households, and encouraging work among able-bodied adults without dependents. The Budget also proposes to re-balance the Federal/State partnership in SNAP benefits to low-income households by gradually establishing a State match for benefit costs, phasing in from a national average of 10 percent in 2020 to 25 percent, on average by 2023. Combined, these reforms would generate nearly $191 billion in savings over 10 years.

There proposed cuts start at approximately $4.6 billion in 2018 reaching $26 billion by 2026 and totaling $193 billion over ten years.

Community Services Block Grant—Eliminated $714 million
According to the National Association for State Community Services Programs, the CSBG **is a** federal, anti-poverty block grant which funds the operations of a state-administered network of local agencies. This CSBG network consists of more than 1,000 agencies that create, coordinate and deliver programs and services to low-income Americans in 99 percent of the nation's counties. Most agencies are Community Action Agencies (CAAs), created through the Economic Opportunity Act.

The Administration says: *"The Budget eliminates the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) because it constitutes a small portion of the funding these grantees receive, and funds are not directly tied to performance, which limits incentives for innovation. CSBG also funds some services that are duplicative of services that are funded through other Federal programs, such as emergency food assistance funded through the Department of Agriculture's The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and workforce programs funded through the Departments of Education and Labor."*

LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)—Eliminated $3.384 Billion
LIHEAP is a decades-old energy assistance program started in the Carter Administration. Although created at the height of the 1970s energy crisis, it in fact provides assistance to states (and in turn low-income households) to provide relief to address both extreme cold and extreme heat.

The Administration says: *"The Budget proposes to eliminate the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in order to reduce the size and scope of the Federal Government and better target resources within the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families."*

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)—Eliminated $2.994
CDBG provides flexible formula funds to 1,250 state and local grantees to support a wide range of community and economic development activities (e.g., housing rehabilitation, blight removal, infrastructure and public improvements, public services). Funding is provided to states and then

by formula distributed to urban and rural communities. The Administration criticizes the broad purpose and flexible nature of "this unauthorized program" that allows for a wide range of community activities to be supported. They argue that "this same flexibility [that] creates challenges to measuring the program's impact and efficacy in improving communities."

The Administration says: *"The Budget proposes to eliminate funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The program is not well-targeted to the poorest populations and has not demonstrated a measurable impact on communities."*

Public Loan Forgiveness—Change Time & Professions--$859 Million Cut
The 2007 Higher Education Act allowed people to qualify for forgiveness of the remaining balance due on one's William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program loans after one has made 120 qualifying payments on those loans while employed full-time by certain public service employers. Since one must make 120 qualifying payments on one's eligible federal student loans after October1, 2007, before one can qualify for the loan forgiveness, the first forgiveness of loan balances will not be granted until October 2017. The provisions applied to a range of professions, including child welfare social workers. The Administration proposes loan forgiveness to be extended to 15 years, applying to an expanded universe of professions. Funding would be cut by $859 million next year, reaching a high of $3.5 billion by 2025.