



Trump Skinny Budget FY 2018 (More Detail in mid-May)

HHS

The FFY 2018 budget for HHS would be cut by 17.9 percent - a \$15.1 billion reduction in discretionary funding. The budget does not address proposed policy changes and possible cuts to federal mandatory spending programs such as Medicaid and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, but states that the Trump budget 'supports efficient operations for Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program and focuses spending on the highest priority activities necessary to effectively operate these programs.'

Programs targeted for elimination are the \$715 million Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and the \$3.1 billion Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. CSBG funds community-based social services organizations and LIHEAP assists low-income families in paying their utility bills. Both programs were also targeted for reductions in some Obama budgets but were consistently rejected by both Democrats and Republicans. The Trump budget asserts that the two programs have not demonstrated strong outcomes.

The budget also proposes a \$500 million increase above 2016 levels to address the opioid epidemic, and a new \$500 million block grant to states to address public health needs. There is not enough detail within the proposal to determine the fate of the nearly \$1 billion a year Prevention and Public Health Fund, but that program is slated for elimination in the GOP Affordable Care Act replacement bill supported by the President.

Finally, the budget proposes a surprising 18 percent cut to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which supports ground breaking medical research. Republicans and Democrats have increased the NIH budget over the past few years, so a cut of nearly \$6 billion is likely to be rejected, potentially placing additional pressure on cuts to other HHS programs.

USDA

The budget proposes a 21 percent cut to discretionary programs within USDA. Given the entitlement nature of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the initial budget outline does not address any changes to it. It does, however, propose \$6.2 billion to fully fund the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) which provides food and nutrition education for low-income pregnant mothers, infants and children. Some advocates assert, however that the WIC request should be at least \$200 million higher than the request.

DOL

A cut of 21 percent is slated for Department of Labor programs which amounts to a \$2.5 billion cut in its \$9.6 billion budget. The specific cuts are unknown, however, with the exception of a proposal to eliminate the \$434 million Senior Community Service Employment Program. The Administration argues that it only places half of the participants into unsubsidized employment.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and Job Corps are likely to be cut, but details are lacking on the level of the cuts. The budget document states that it "Decreases Federal support for job training and

employment service formula grants, shifting more responsibility for funding these services to States, localities, and employers.” Additionally, Job Corps would be improved by closing underperforming centers.

The entire budget may be found at this link:

https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/omb/budget/fy2018/2018_blueprint.pdf