



COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

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How the Differences Between Congress' Priorities and the President's Affect People

Congress' funding for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education exceeds the President's proposal by nearly \$10 billion for FY 2008. For many programs, it is the difference between modest gains (Congress) and yet more cuts (the President). For some programs, Congress lets inflation shrink funding instead of making gains. Head Start is a very regrettable example. But here too, Congress does better than the President – and the difference could affect 34,000 children.

Service	Amount Congress' Funding Exceeds President's	What it Means to People
Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)	\$629.6m	President's funding would reduce the number of low-income households receiving heating/cooling aid by up to 1.4 million – many elderly and working poor families.*
Community Health Centers	\$224.5m	1.2 million more underinsured people would receive health care at CHC's under Congress' bill.+
Pell Grants (scholarships for low-income college students)	\$523.1m	Congress will raise maximum Pell grant from \$4,310 to \$4,925.+
Head Start	\$253.6m	If the President's cut goes into effect, Head Start programs would either have to serve 34,000 fewer children or spend \$279 less per child.*
Child Care	\$32.5m	Congress' funding would serve 5,500 more children than the President's.*
Community Services Block Grant	\$665.4m (President eliminates program)	Dramatically reduce the capacity of 1,100 community action programs and other agencies to provide home energy aid, weatherization, job training, transportation, and/or administer Head Start programs and other services that have been used by millions of people.
Social Services Block Grant	\$500m	The President would slash funding from \$1.7b to \$1.2b; Congress level-funds. SSBG funds child care, foster care and other child welfare services, services for at-risk youth, meals on wheels and adult day services for the elderly, and other services.
Job training for adults, youth, and dislocated workers	\$821.2m	The President proposes cuts that would eliminate training for 173,000 people . Congress level-funds these programs, and so would shrink services by inflation (about 3%), where the President's cuts range from 20 – 40%.+
Education for disadvantaged students (K-12) – grants to local school districts	\$401.5m	Both the President and Congress increase funding (by 5% and 9% over inflation respectively), but because the President's funding is so far below the amount promised to schools, they will be farther behind in helping students to meet educational standards.
Special Education for children with disabilities (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA): grants to states (Part B)	\$800.5m	The President's budget would require an average cut of \$125 per child receiving special education services; 6.9 million children now receive such services. Congress increases funds by 2% beyond inflation.#

* Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, online at <http://www.cbpp.org/11-8-07bud.htm>

+ House Committee on Appropriations, How 2 Months Spending in Iraq Could Be Put to Better Use, online at <http://appropriations.house.gov>

House Budget Committee, online at [http://budget.house.gov/analyses/0802state_report%20\(2\).pdf](http://budget.house.gov/analyses/0802state_report%20(2).pdf)

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