

How to Add Billions for Needed Services

**Coalition on Human Needs
Webinar**

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Today's Speakers

Moderator – Ellen Teller, Director of Government Relations, Food Research and Action Center

Presenter - Deborah Weinstein – Executive Director, Coalition on Human Needs

Presenter - Benjamin L. Allen, Ph.D. – Research and Evaluation Director, National Head Start Association

Presenter - Mark Wolfe – Executive Director, National Energy Assistance Directors' Association

Ellen Teller

Food Research & Action Center (FRAC), Washington, D.C. (1986-present)

Director for Government Affairs: Assists in the development and implementation of FRAC's legislative agenda and workplan. FRAC's key liaison with national organizations, Congress, and FRAC's diverse state and local grassroots field network. FRAC's key lobbyist on Capitol Hill for budget, appropriations, and authorization of the Federal food assistance programs.

American Bar Association (ABA), Washington, D.C. (1984-1985)

Project Director: Directed the ABA Advisory Commission on Youth Alcohol and Drug Problems (Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities). Supervised and wrote a 20-part policy recommendation and report and followed through all stages of committee, section and ultimately ABA approval. Assisted in the development of policies for the Section of Individual Rights and strategies for their approval within the ABA.

EDUCATION

- Western New England College School of Law, J.D., 1983, Springfield, Massachusetts
- Emmanuel College, Cambridge University, Cambridge, England
- Program in International Law and British Common Law, Summer 1981
- State University of New York, College at Oneonta, New York
- B.A., Political Science and English Literature

Deborah Weinstein

Deborah Weinstein has been executive director of the Coalition on Human Needs since 2003. The Coalition is an alliance of national organizations working together to promote federal policies and budgets to address the needs of low-income and other vulnerable populations. The Coalition's members include civil rights, religious, labor, professional, policy and advocacy organizations and those concerned with the well being of children, women, the elderly and people with disabilities.

Prior to coming to CHN, Weinstein served for nine years as director of the Family Income division of the Children's Defense Fund. At CDF she worked on policy strategies to lift children and their families out of poverty.

Prior to her arrival in Washington, Weinstein served for a decade as executive director of the Massachusetts Human Services Coalition, which advocated at the state level for low-income people and the services they needed.

Benjamin L. Allen, Ph.D.

Ben Allen, Ph.D., has worked for more than five years as the Research and Evaluation Director at the National Head Start Association in Alexandria, Virginia. In this position, Allen has authored position papers, special reports, and articles and has testified before the National Research Council Committee on Developmental Outcomes and Assessments for Young Children. He has presented at national and state Head Start association training conferences; managed the *NHSA Dialog: A Research-to-Practice Journal for the Early Intervention Field*; performed survey research on various Head Start-related topics; and educated the Head Start community, media, and congressional staff about Head Start research and funding.

Allen earned his doctoral degree in Public Policy from George Mason University, where he taught graduate and undergraduate courses and performed research on biological, economic, political, and social policy issues. Prior to his doctoral studies at George Mason University, he served as an International Trade Analyst/Legal Assistant at Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP, an international law firm, and held a position at the survey research firm of Peter D. Hart Research Associates Inc.

Allen received a master's degree in International Affairs from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and a bachelor's degree in Political Science with a minor in French from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Mark Wolfe

Mark Wolfe serves as the Executive Director of the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association (NEADA) and the Energy Programs Consortium (EPC). NEADA represents the state directors of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The Energy Programs Consortium (EPC) is a national non-profit organization providing consulting and related technical services to state energy offices.

Mr. Wolfe is responsible for representing the state LIHEAP directors in Washington DC. He is also responsible for managing and developing partnerships among state energy, weatherization, and housing agencies to develop new programs and initiatives to sustain low income home ownership as part of a multi-year effort funded by the Ford Foundation.

Prior to his current role, Mr. Wolfe served as an Advisor to the US Treasury Department's Office of Technical Assistance, Deputy Director of the Coalition of Northeastern Governors, Program Director for the National Governors Association and as a Senior Analyst for the Congressional Research Service. Mr. Wolfe holds a M.S. degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and a BA from Antioch College.

Why should we care about Labor-HHS-Ed?

Debbie Weinstein
Coalition on Human Needs

It's the legislation that provides annual appropriations to fund the U.S. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

Some reasons to care:

- Child care, Head Start
- Community health centers, maternal and child health programs
- Job training and vocational education
- K-12 education, special education
- College financial aid
- Mental health services
- Substance abuse treatment
- Home energy assistance (LIHEAP)
- Services to protect children from abuse or neglect
- Meals for the elderly
- Family violence services/prevention
- Services for youth

What's at stake?

- ↑ Both the House and Senate Labor-HHS-Ed bills provide for modest gains beyond inflation – more people can be served, and/or served better.
- ↓ The President's proposal cuts below last year's spending; and shrinks even more counting inflation.

The Numbers

Labor-HHS-Education Annual Funding

FY 2007:	\$144.5 billion
FY07 + inflation:	\$147.8 billion
FY08 President:	\$140.3 billion
FY08 House:	\$151.8 billion
FY08 Senate:	\$149.9 billion
Approx. Conf. Report:	\$150.8 billion?

The looming veto threat

- If the President vetoes the bill, it fails unless both the House and Senate can come up with a $2/3$ vote of those present.
- If not, Congress has to cut until the President signs it or they can get two-thirds.



This matters because we need

- ***More teachers***
 - President funds **9,200 fewer K-12 teachers** in low-income (Title I) schools than the House bill.
- ***More families able to afford child care***
 - President's budget will result in **100,000 fewer children** served in FY 2008 than in FY 2007.
- ***More health care for the uninsured***
 - The House funding provides community health center care to **1 million more uninsured** people than the President's plan. The House: up 8% from FY07; Senate: up 10%.

We must protect

- The ***elderly and poor*** from being priced out of heat (more later)
- ***Children*** from failing at school – tested, not taught.
 - House spends \$1 billion more than President for Title I, improving teacher quality, and afterschool care.
- ***Older people*** from going without nutritious food
 - President cuts nutrition for the elderly by 5%, even though elderly less likely to get food stamps; 29% of elderly seeking emergency food said they had to choose between food and medical care. (House up 1%; Senate up 3% above inflation.)

Our shared prosperity depends on

- **Babies and toddlers** able to thrive and develop
 - President reduces Healthy Start and Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, although effective against low birthweight (now rising) and infant mortality.
- **Students** able to go to college
 - President cuts \$901 million in student aid, affecting 1 million students; House adds \$3.2b to help 8.5 million students.
- **Trained workers** able to get good jobs
 - President cuts job training for adults, youth by \$609m, ending services for 173,000 people; ends training for 4,300 out-of-school youth in Job Corps.

We don't need

- Hundreds of billions of dollars squandered in a failed war (\$10b a month).
- More billions in wasted military projects and contracts that do not make us safer.



We don't need to protect

- Multi-millionaires from their obligation to pay taxes.

\$118,000: average value to millionaires in 2006 of tax cuts enacted since 2001.

\$20: average value to bottom 20 percentile.

In 2004 top 1% had higher share of pre-tax income than any time since 1929 (except for 2 years)



What should we tell Congress?

- Vote for the appropriations for the Depts. Of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. It's an investment in education, health, and jobs for the people who live in our district and the nation.
- Voting for Labor-HHS-Ed allows us to begin to rebuild after seven years of cuts.
- Voting against it will mean more cuts in services that will hurt our community.

What to Expect – and When



- House-Senate committee will complete Labor-HHS-Ed approps. bill soon – maybe **today** (Nov. 1).
- May be voted on in House Wednesday, November 7.
- Likely to be combined with Defense and Military Construction/Veterans approps.

The Veto

- The President has announced he will veto all the appropriations bills except Military Construction-VA and Defense.
- He said he'll veto a bill combining Mil Con-VA, Defense, and Labor-HHS-Ed.
- ***How many are two-thirds?***

67/289

- 67 in Senate, if all members are present.
- 289 in House, if all current members (433) are present.
- Senate passed its Labor-H bill 75-19.
- House: 276-140 (15 not voting). **2 short of veto-proof majority.**

See roll call vote at

<http://www.chn.org/pdf/2007/lhhsedhousevote.pdf>

Getting to 2/3's

- Earlier 276-140 vote:
 - Bean (D-IL) voted against
 - If she and all other NV Dems. vote for an override = 283.
 - Need 6 more yes votes.
 - If only 430 are present, need 287

Erosion of Federal Funding Has Had a Severe Impact on Head Start Programs

Ben Allen, Ph.D.
National Head Start Association



National Head Start Association

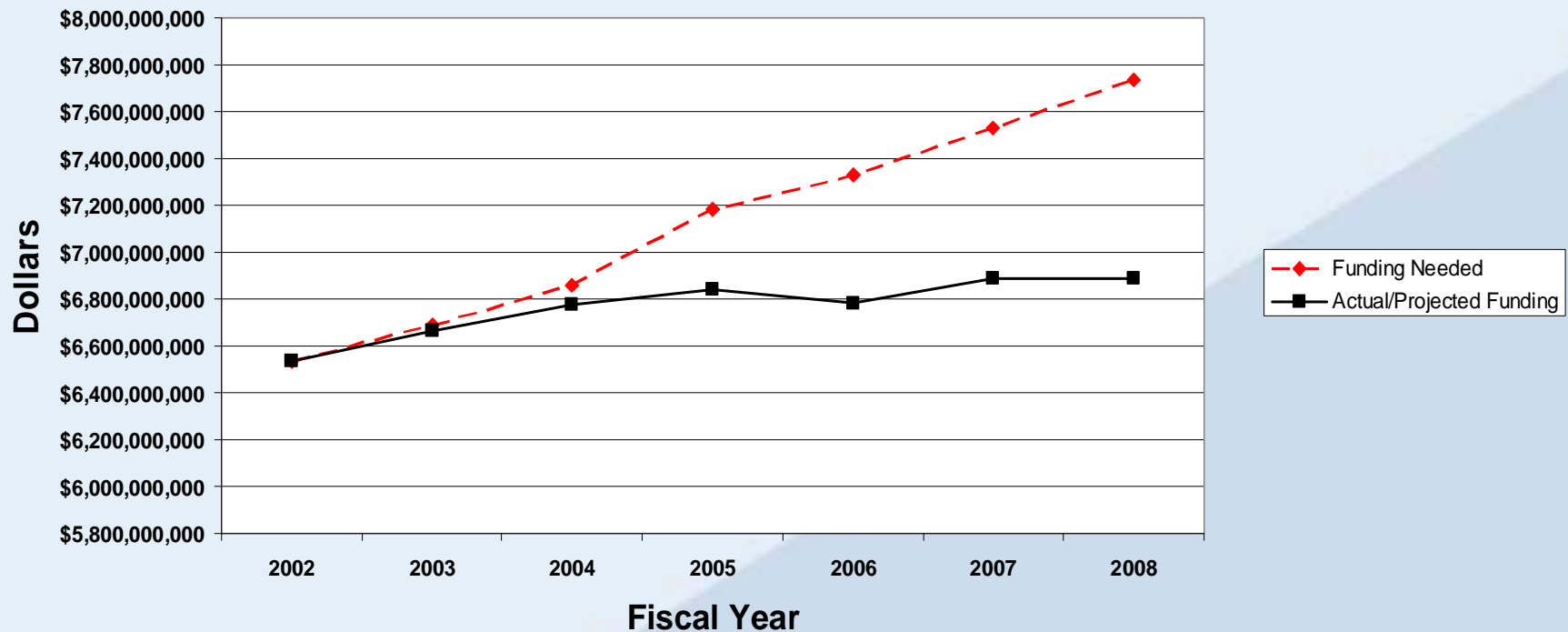
Federal Funding Has Failed to Keep Pace with Inflation Since Fiscal Year 2002



National Head Start Association



At Least \$750 Million in Additional Head Start and Early Head Start Funding in Fiscal Year 2008 Is Required to Close the Projected Eleven Percent Real Cut in Funding Since Fiscal Year 2002



Sources: Office of Head Start, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The estimated needed funding figures for Fiscal Years 2002 through 2007 were calculated by the NHSA Research and Evaluation Department (RED) using actual Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Urban Consumers data from the BLS, and the estimated needed funding figure for Fiscal Year 2008 was calculated by RED using estimated CPI for All Urban Consumers data from the CBO. The actual/projected funding figure for Fiscal Year 2008 assumes that Head Start and Early Head Start will receive a zero increase in funding during that year.



Budget Cuts of Head Start Programs in Selected States

- **California:** Head Start programs have had to reduce operating hours, cut transportation services, cut staff, reduce salaries and benefits, endure high staff turnovers, lose highly qualified staff, reduce supplies, cut training and professional development, and cut services to English language learners.



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Budget Cuts of Head Start Programs in Selected States (Continued)

- **Illinois:** Cut operating days, 12-month classrooms converted to nine months, less preventative services provided, cut transportation services for children, staff layoffs, unable to retain and attract highly qualified staff (especially teachers), cut and eliminated staff raises and benefits, experienced increased staff turnover, unable to meet growing demands and survive rising high costs (example: increased gas prices).



Budget Cuts of Head Start Programs in Selected States (Continued)

- **New York:** Cut services for children, cut services for families, reduced staff hours, eliminated staff salary increases, inadequate classroom supplies, overloaded/overworked staff, and centers face site evictions.



Budget Cuts of Head Start Programs in Selected States (Continued)

- **Wisconsin:** Reduced operating hours/days (example: operate 7 a.m.-5 p.m. instead of 6 a.m.-6 p.m., which creates problems for working-poor parents), overloaded/ overworked staff (example: one social worker handles 146 families), cut staff, cut transportation services, cut educationally enriching field trips, cut training and professional development.



Budget Cuts of Head Start Programs in Selected States (Continued)

- **Wyoming:** Limited classroom supplies, reduced training and professional development, reduced child contact days, less home visits and more telephone calls, cut transportation services, cut staff hours, and unable to provide competitive salaries.



National Head Start Association



Estimated Impacts of Various FY 2008 Funding Proposals

	Bush Proposal	No Change in Funding Scenario	House Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Bill	Senate Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Bill
Change in funding	\$100 million cut	\$0 increase	\$75 million increase	\$200 million increase
Real Cut since FY 2002	12 percent	11 percent	10 percent	8 percent
Gap in funding since FY 2002	\$944.6 million	\$844.6 million	\$769.6 million	\$644.6 million
Equivalent to closing enrollment children and pregnant women	38,418	25,094	15,101	Not Applicable
Equivalent to increasing enrollment children and pregnant women	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	1,218



Take Home Messages

- Lack of funding impairs Head Start's ability to serve all eligible children and families.
- Inadequate funding jeopardizes the quality of Head Start.
- The Bush administration's FY 2008 budget proposal to cut Head Start funding by \$100 million would negatively affect Head Start programs.
- A \$750 million increase in FY 2008 is necessary to restore funding and make up for many of the cuts experienced since FY 2002.



National Head Start Association



**Low Income Home Energy
Assistance Program (FY 2008)**

Mark Wolfe

Executive Director

**National Energy Assistance
Directors' Association**

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

- President's Budget - \$1.5 billion formula grant, \$282 million emergency
- House: \$1.98 billion formula grant plus \$681 million in emergency
- Senate: \$1.98 billion formula grant plus \$181 million in emergency

LIHEAP Continued

- What does that mean?
- 17% of eligible households served
- Average grant paid for 25% of home heating in 2007 down from 40% in 2002
- # of households served up from 4.2 million in 2002 to 5.6 million in 2007
- President's Budget would cut LIHEAP by 1.1 million families

Est. Average % of Home Heating Purchased with LIHEAP (02-07)

Fiscal Year	Heating Oil	Natural Gas	Propane	Electricity
2002-03	36.7%	58.2%	37.6%	50.0%
2003-04	35.1%	42.8%	28.8%	44.1%
2004-05	29.1%	36.9%	27.2%	44.5%
2005-06	31.3%	47.4%	35.0%	57.3%
2006-07	22.6%	38.3%	25.3%	37.8%

Home Heating Costs - U.S. Average

	2000-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	\$ Change (07-08)-(06-07)	% Change
Heating Oil						
Retail Price	\$1.48	\$2.45	\$2.42	\$3.10	\$0.68	28.0%
Consumption (gallons)	632	585	592	592	0	0.0%
Expenditures	\$935	\$1,431	\$1,433	\$1,834	\$401.14	28.0%
Natural Gas						
Retail Price (\$/mcf)	\$9.28	\$14.66	\$12.42	\$13.17	\$0.75	6.0%
Consumption (mcf)	69	65	67	67	0	0.0%
Expenditures (\$)	\$641	\$946	\$831	\$881	\$49.85	6.0%
Propane						
Retail Price	\$1.40	\$1.95	\$1.98	\$2.54	\$0.56	28.3%
Consumption (gallons)	692	657	682	682	0	0.0%
Expenditures	\$967	\$1,281	\$1,351	\$1,733	\$382	28.3%
Electricity						
Price (\$/kwh)	\$0.083	\$0.096	\$0.100	\$0.107	\$0.007	7.0%
Consumption (kwh)	8,371	8,103	8,255	8,255	0	0.0%
Expenditures	\$698	\$782	\$826	\$883	\$58	7.0%
All Households						
Average Expenditures	\$697	\$948	\$898	\$992	\$94	10.5%

Why should we care about Labor- HHS-Ed?

Debbie Weinstein
Coalition on Human Needs

How to Get Veto Proof

- Convince a small number of no votes that their constituents need the services in Labor-HHS-Ed
- Do it by Wednesday, Nov. 7
- Second round after the President vetoes bill
- ***How?***

What Matters to the District?

- What constituents say matters
- Calls from constituents are all-important!
- Calls from community leaders *especially* helpful: pastors, social service agency heads, business people...

Poll question

- Have Representatives in your state taken credit in press announcements for bringing funding to their districts?
 - Yes
 - No

Toll-free number available:

1-888-460-0813

Thanks to AFSCME

Hold Members Accountable

- Participate in events in the district
 - Help identify spokespeople who can speak to the press in press conference calls or in-person events
- Write a letter to the editor for a local paper
- Send a copy of the letter to the Rep and Senators

Help is available!

- Contact the lead people for your state to learn how you can join in press activities.
- Want help writing a letter to the editor?
 - Use our website tool – available starting 11/2 at www.chn.org
 - You'll get an email with sample letters and links to state data and other info

Poll question (they can check as many as they want)

- Can you help by
 - Calling your Representative?
 - Contacting 5 people to ask them to call their Rep?
 - Forwarding an alert about calling to your network?
 - Writing a letter to the editor?
 - Speaking in a press conference call?
 - Finding a spokesperson – service provider or user?

It's up to you.

**Please join in the fight
for the right priorities!**

www.chn.org

Thanks!

Questions?