



COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

PRESS ADVISORY

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Key Human Needs Funding Has Been Shrinking Since 2010 ***New [Analysis](#) Underscores Need to Reverse Cuts***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Out of more than 150 federal programs of importance to low-income people, the vast majority have sustained substantial cuts over the past five years. The Coalition on Human Needs compared current year (Fiscal Year 2015) funding to FY 2010, for job training, education, public health, nutrition, Head Start, child care and child welfare services, housing, and other programs, and found that of 152 separate programs, all but 14 had been cut over the five-year period. Adjusted for inflation, about one-third of the programs (50) were cut by 15 percent or more. Thirty-nine programs were slashed by at least one-third. The detailed table is [here](#).

“Congress has been cutting programs that low-income people need for years, reducing opportunities for escaping poverty through education, job training, housing and homelessness aid, and services to treat mental health and substance abuse,” said Deborah Weinstein, executive director of the Coalition on Human Needs. “Another round of deep cuts is set to take place next year. It is welcome news that the President has said his new budget would [“fully reverse”](#) the domestic cuts. We need Congress to do the same,” said Weinstein.

Starting next October, Congress must either make cuts of about \$109 billion as required by the deficit reduction law, or replace those cuts with higher revenues or further cuts in entitlement programs (such as Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP/food stamps, Social Security or disability income programs, etc.). If Congress does not act, half the \$109 billion in cuts will come from domestic/international programs, and half from the Pentagon. Congress must decide whether and how to replace these “sequestration” cuts in March/April, as the House and Senate take up budget resolutions.

“Congress needs to know that cuts of 18 percent for job training and adult education, and well over 40 percent for juvenile justice services over the past five years have hurt people’s chances to get jobs and move forward,” said Weinstein. “Slashing home heating assistance by about one-third hurts families with children and seniors. Affordable housing and community development funds have been hit with cuts of one-third or more. Speaker Boehner recently expressed concern about [rising inequality](#). Past cuts have reduced opportunity for millions of people. Speaker Boehner can do something important to reduce inequality and poverty by stopping the cuts to these vital services and by protecting essentials like food stamps, Medicaid, and low-income tax credits.”

CHN’s executive director Deborah Weinstein will be analyzing the President’s budget on February 2, and will be available to speak with the press (contact info above). See CHN description below/on reverse.

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The Coalition on Human Needs (CHN) is an alliance of national organizations working together to promote public policies which address the needs of low-income and other vulnerable populations. The Coalition conducts analyses of federal budget proposals and policies to determine their impact on people in need. The Coalition's members include civil rights, religious, labor and professional organizations and those concerned with the well being of children, women, the elderly and people with disabilities. CHN is located at 1120 Connecticut Ave. NW Suite 312, Washington, D.C. 20036. For more information please visit www.chn.org