



COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 12, 2018

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“EXTREME AND HARSH”

Trump budget would force low- and moderate-income families pay for tax cuts that largely benefit corporations and the rich

Deborah Weinstein, Executive Director of the Coalition on Human Needs, issued the following statement Monday, Feb. 12 in response to the Trump administration’s budget proposal:

“The Trump budget priorities are clear: make low- and moderate-income people, workers and families alike, pay as much as possible for the tax cuts that largely benefit corporations and the rich.

- The budget proposes massive cuts in Medicaid. It would end federal support for millions of low-income people added to the Medicaid program under the Affordable Care Act and try again to repeal the ACA despite the unpopularity of that attempt.
- It would cut SNAP/food stamps by more than \$213 billion over 10 years, in part by a giant step backwards by replacing some of the debit card assistance with packages of food, as well as denying food assistance to more poor adults.
- It cuts assistance for people with disabilities by tens of billions of dollars, even denying months of back benefits owed to people because it takes so long for the understaffed federal government to approve assistance.
- It eliminates home heating and cooling assistance for about 6 million low-income households; about 6 in 10 include a person 60 years or older and/or a person with disabilities.
- It makes harsh cuts in low-income housing, requiring low-income families to pay a higher percentage of their income on rent, and would reduce the number of federally-subsidized low-income housing units.
- The budget slashes Temporary Assistance for Needy Families by more than \$15 billion over ten years.
- It eliminates the Social Services Block Grant, which provides child care, senior care and other family services, and also wipes out the after-school care program, 21st Century Community Learning Centers.
- The budget eliminates the Community Services Block Grant, which provides operating expenses for about 1,100 poverty-fighting community action agencies.
- In another blow to communities nationwide, the budget ends all funding for the Community Development Block Grant.

- College students will face very large cuts in Work-Study; TRIO assistance for low-income first generation college students is eliminated; Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants are also ended.
- The budget proposes to destroy the independence of the Consumer Financial Bureau by 2020.
- The budget will seriously weaken the federal capacity to respond to our nation's problems by cutting the federal workforce.

"Who wins and who loses in this budget? Powerful corporations remain the big winners, and not only because of the recently passed tax cuts. Military contractors benefit from the very large increase in the Pentagon budget. Payday lenders will be able to continue gouging consumers because of limits proposed for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Health care insurers will not have to cover essential benefits. Who loses? In program after program, low- and moderate-income people are hit hard. The budget may talk about the "dignity of work," but what it does is inflict burdensome paperwork demands on low-income workers, making it likely they will lose health care and food and housing assistance. The budget talks about making government work better, but not for low-income people – for them there will be more and more hurdles to jump, with savings counting on their failure.

"The main budget, developed before the two-year deal just enacted, would slash domestic/international appropriations from 3.1 percent of GDP to 1.2 percent in 2028. The addendum, reflecting yet rejecting the will of Congress to increase funding for child care and many other domestic needs, would spend \$57 billion less than the new agreement allows for FY 2019. It would reduce the actual amounts intended in the budget deal by cutting some existing child care and other funding.

"This budget is extreme and harsh. Its cuts will be rejected by the public, as they have been rejected even by the Congress of President Trump's own party. They show the priorities of the President: slash programs needed by people with low incomes in order to shift resources to the Pentagon and to corporations and high-income people benefiting from the tax cuts."