

NFPRHA Analysis: FY 2019 White House Budget Proposal

An Approach Devastating to Poor and Low-Income Communities

On February 12, President Donald Trump released his fiscal year (FY) 2019 budget request, a series of documents that outline the administration's federal spending priorities for FY 2019, which runs October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2019. While the proposal has no force of law by itself nor is Congress bound to adopt it, President Trump's approach, if enacted, would be devastating to the poor and low-income people who rely on the safety net. The following is NFPRHA's analysis of relevant sections of the White House budget plan that would impact the family planning safety net and the individuals and communities it serves.

As of the release of the budget, Congress had not yet finalized an FY 2018 appropriations package. Therefore, all comparisons below are given to FY 2017 funding levels.

Overarching Budget Framework

- The budget plan, titled "An American Budget," proposes \$1.3 trillion in spending in FY 2019 for discretionary programs. The administration has proposed meeting the defense caps agreed to in a bipartisan deal in February 2018 but staying below the agreed-upon caps for non-defense spending.
- The budget plan requests \$95.4 billion for discretionary programs within the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and \$1.1 trillion in mandatory funding. While the discretionary funding request is substantially higher than in previous years, the additional funds are earmarked within the budget for opioids.
- The budget proposal assumes the passage of the Graham-Cassidy proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act and allow for both block grants and per-capita caps for Medicaid. This proposal, and other suggestions to modify the Medicaid program, would result in millions of Americans losing health insurance coverage.

Harmful Policy Notes

- The plan seeks to prohibit any funding in the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, including Title X, from going to Planned Parenthood affiliates by targeting essential community providers that provide abortions or contract with abortion providers and that received more than \$23 million in Title X funding in FY 2017.
- The plan would bar any immigrant without "satisfactory status" from accessing emergency Medicaid, which provides coverage in life-threatening situations, including labor and delivery care.

The Administration's Funding Requests

- \$286.5 million for the Title X family planning program, level funding when compared to FY 2017.
- \$5 billion in funding for the Section 330 federally qualified health center program (level funding when compared to FY 2017). While the program currently receives \$1.4 billion in discretionary funding and \$3.6 billion in mandatory funding, the proposal recommends making all the funding discretionary.

- \$628 million for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, a decrease of \$12 million from FY 2017. The proposal eliminates or reduces additional maternal-child health programs for a total cut of \$112 million.
- \$1.1 billion for CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STIs, and TB prevention, a \$2 million increase.
- \$16.7 billion for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), a \$2 million increase.
- \$5.8 billion for Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), a \$600 million cut.
- \$2.26 billion for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program, a \$43 million cut.
- \$75 million for Rural Health, a \$80 million cut including eliminating all state offices of rural health and rural hospital flexibility grants.
- Elimination of the Social Services Block Grant.
- Elimination of the evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention program.
- \$75 million in mandatory funding for the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP), which provides formula grants to states to educate adolescents on pregnancy prevention, sexually transmitted diseases, and adulthood preparation subjects and \$75 million for the state formula grants supported by the Title V Abstinence program.

Looking Ahead

- Congress still needs to complete its FY 2018 funding process, which will delay its ability to turn to FY 2019 appropriations. The federal government is currently operating on a continuing resolution based on FY 2017 funding levels through March 23, 2018.
- Congress is not obligated to take the president's recommendations on any funding proposals.