

NFPRHA Analysis: FY 2018 White House Budget Proposal

An Approach Devastating to Poor and Low-Income Communities

On Tuesday, May 23, President Donald Trump released his fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget request, a series of documents that outline the administration's federal spending priorities for FY 2018, which runs October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018. 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.

Overarching Budget Framework

- The budget plan, titled "The New Foundation for American Greatness," proposes \$3.6 trillion in spending cuts.
- As previously outlined when the administration released its "skinny budget" in March 2017, the president proposes reducing non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending by \$54 billion in FY 2018 to offset a corresponding increase in defense spending. It also proposes a 2% cut to NDD spending annually thereafter.
- The budget plan requests \$69 billion for discretionary programs (a decrease from \$82.8 billion FY 2017) within the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and \$1.046 trillion in mandatory funding. The decrease in mandatory spending reflects estimated savings (\$627 billion) that would result from restructuring the Medicaid program and capping spending in alignment with the American Health Care Act (AHCA).
- The White House plan also proposes to "Reform the Welfare System," a reduction of \$274 billion over 10 years.
- The budget proposal assumes many of the harmful provisions of the House-passed AHCA, including the effective repeal of the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion, imposition of work requirements on various welfare programs, and a full restructuring of Medicaid that would end its historical status as an entitlement program. In total, such changes would result in an estimated 14 million current Medicaid enrollees losing their coverage over the next ten years.

Harmful Policy Notes

- As currently written, 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 2016. The summary explicitly states that the prohibition would also apply to Medicaid funds.
- The proposal calls out the role of Office of Civil Rights in enforcing "protection of conscience rights of individuals, providers, and entities that object to abortion and sterilization procedures."

Funding Elements

- The proposal requests:
 - \$286.5 million for the Title X family planning program, level funding when compared to FY 2017.
 - \$1.4 billion in *discretionary* funding for the Section 330 federally qualified health center program (level funding when compared to FY 2017) and an extension of *mandatory* funding for the program at \$3.6 billion for FY 2018 and FY 2019.
 - \$667 million for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, an increase of \$26 million above FY 2017; however, the proposal eliminates some of the smaller maternal and child health programs, a cut of \$103 million.
 - \$934 million for CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STIs, and TB prevention, a \$183 million cut.
 - \$15.5 billion for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), a \$1.3 billion cut.
 - \$6.15 billion for Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), a \$200 million cut.
 - \$2.26 billion for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program, a \$59 million cut.
 - \$74 million for Rural Health, a \$82 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) that 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 for FY 2018 and FY 2019.
 - \$10 million for Sexual Risk Avoidance abstinence grants, \$5 million less than FY 2017.

Looking Ahead

- It remains to be seen to what extent Congress will adopt the White House budget request as it crafts its FY 2018 budget resolution and sets allocations for the appropriations committees.