

Denise Harlow

From: NCAF <info@ncaf.org>
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To: Denise Harlow
Subject: Press Releases on Trump Budget



National Community Action Foundation

Statements on the 2019 Trump Budget

NCAF has sent out the following press releases on the President's FY 2019 Budget, which was published today. The budget calls for the elimination of CSBG, WAP and LIHEAP. Please feel free to use these releases as necessary in your own statements. In your individual press releases, be sure to:

1. Include a quote on how the elimination of the program would directly impact your local community. With CSBG, describe all the programs that would be impacted, not just the loss of an administrator. Tell us if you need help.
2. Include a quote from someone who has relied on the program, and their story. Effective stories involve individuals raised out of poverty, or kept out of poverty during hard times, who no longer rely on the agency or its programs for support.

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WASHINGTON, DC * FEBRUARY 12, 2018 * MONDAY**

On the proposed elimination of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG):

For the second year, the Trump Administration proposes to eliminate all funding for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), threatening the existence of about 1,000 local Community Action Agencies (CAAs) that serve about 16 million low-income people every year in 99 percent of the counties in the United States.

David Bradley, CEO of National Community Action Foundation, which represents Community Action Agencies said this: "Cutting CSBG, flexible local dollars that create opportunity for 16 million people across the country, a program with bipartisan support in Congress, abandons every community in America and burdens local communities. Congress, Republicans and Democrats in both the House and the Senate, will not accept this cut."

Community Action Agencies are unique agencies in their communities, each overseen by a governing board that represents public and private stakeholders and low-income community residents. While each agency may vary in size and scope, they all share a common mission of fighting poverty and promoting self-sufficiency at the community level. Local agencies respond to short-term crises that can topple a working family into poverty, and address chronic conditions that can trap multiple generations in dependency.

The locally-controlled organizations use their CSBG grants to develop extensive community partnerships, identify pressing local needs, and mobilize public and private resources to meet those needs. CAAs are nimble and respond quickly to emergencies, they are creative and fill service gaps, and they ensure cost-efficient use of funds on behalf of their communities and individual families.

"Communities across the country support the work of their Community Action Agencies through the Community Services Block Grant. The Trump Administration has taken care of Wall Street - it's time they stop being tone deaf to programs that Main Street supports," said Bradley.

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On the proposed elimination of the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP):

The 2019 presidential budget proposal has been released and, once again, the Trump Administration proposed to eliminate the Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). A program proven to cut energy bills and improve health for our country's poorest families.

"Because of the Weatherization Assistance Program, thirty-eight thousand family homes will be weatherized this year, keeping each family warmer, healthier and safer," noted David Bradley, CEO of the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF), which represents most of the nonprofit agencies at work in local communities. Bradley went on to say, "Congress will not accept the President's elimination of this program. The Weatherization Assistance Program is proven, effective policy and has broad bipartisan support."

Each federal dollar spent on the program was matched by about two dollars of private money and state matching funds. The local programs, typically administered by Community Action Agencies which are located in 99 percent of the counties in the United States, reduce energy bills by an average of 20 to 30 percent. Moreover, the Weatherization Assistance Program reduces health care costs for both program participants and insurers by improving family health outcomes primarily through the reduction of severity in respiratory conditions.

The WAP was first authorized by Congress in 1976 to address high energy costs. Since then, the program has created a market for building science-driven energy efficiency technologies and services. Families with elderly or disabled members, or with children, are priorities. Agencies focus on homes with high energy use or high energy bills relative to income. The program has elevated our nation's home energy efficiency standards by requiring high quality work performance and accreditations for home performance professionals, which have now been adopted by numerous utilities for all their residential programs.

"The DOE program is critical to the weatherization efforts funded by utilities and state or local governments," said Gene Brady, of the Commission on Economic Opportunity in Wilkes-Barre, PA. "We coordinate services at the local level, making sure our customers get the correct mix of measures to maximize their savings. We look at WAP as our indispensable partner. This is a federal-local-private partnership that works."

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On the proposed elimination of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The Trump Administration proposal to eliminate funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in Fiscal Year 2019 will put millions of the most vulnerable Americans at risk. In recent years, LIHEAP has helped over six million families stay warm and cool, and keep the lights on. Community leaders at the about 1,000 local Community Action agencies that make up the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) know well the tragedies that can occur when utility service is interrupted.

"People will do whatever they can to stay warm," said John Drew of Action for Boston Community Development in Boston, Massachusetts. "We've seen home fires and suffocation from carbon monoxide poisoning when families have resorted to stoves and liquid fueled heaters. A lack of cooling during periods of high heat can also result in death." These potential dangers result in families going hungry or not purchasing needed medicines, just so they can keep their utilities on. LIHEAP is a lifeline for those in danger of using their utility service. This winter's cold weather means Community Action Agencies have seen more families with higher bills who are struggling to meet the urgent need.

"LIHEAP is critical to ensuring the most vulnerable low income families have access to essential energy services. Heating, cooling, hot water lighting, and refrigeration are not things that a family with small children or a senior with a disability can live without," said David Bradley, CEO of NCAF. "Congress ignored the Trump Administration's call to eliminate LIHEAP in 2018, and they

will ignore it again. This is a crucial program with bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate," concluded Bradley.

Community Action professionals work directly with clients, utilities, state and local governments, and other community groups to coordinate the provision of energy assistance and weatherization services to households of limited means.

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For more information, please contact Brett Bauer at brettbauer@ncaf.org or (202) 842-2092.

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