

President Trump's FY2027 Budget: What It Means for Kinship Families

By Steven Olender, Child & Family Policy Strategist and Network Subject Matter Expert

Earlier this month, the White House released [President Trump's budget request for Fiscal Year 2027](#), outlining the Administration's proposed spending priorities for the coming year. The request includes detailed funding proposals for discretionary programs — those funded through annual congressional appropriations — as well as suggested changes to mandatory programs.

The president's budget is a proposal, not a final decision. Congress sets actual funding levels, and members of the House and Senate will consider the Administration's request as part of the FY2027 appropriations process, which is already underway. At the same time, the budget serves as an important signal beyond Congress — it communicates the Administration's priorities to federal agencies and shapes where those agencies are likely to direct their attention and resources in the year ahead. Even before legislation passes, the budget request can indicate which programs and approaches the Administration wants agencies to emphasize.

What does the request propose for programs relevant to kinship families?

Taken together, the FY2027 request reflects the Administration's stated priorities of reducing the size and footprint of the federal government, consolidating federal programs, and shifting greater decision-making authority to states. Many of the proposals that affect kinship families reflect these broader themes — through program eliminations, funding reductions, and the conversion of categorical grants into broader block grants that give states more flexibility in how funds are used.

Several programs that support kinship families (and which are outlined in the [Network's Funding Primer](#)) are directly affected by this request. It is worth noting that many programs in the primer do not appear as their own line items in the budget, but instead sit within larger agency or department funding totals, which makes it difficult in some cases to assess the full picture.

Programs proposed to be eliminated:

The budget proposes zeroing out funding for several programs that fund kinship services, including:

- **AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)** — The budget proposes eliminating AmeriCorps and CNCS, but provides limited funding for an orderly closeout.
- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**
- **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)**
- **HOME Investment Partnerships Program** — The budget proposes no longer funding HOME going forward. Some funding from prior years may

remain available and could be carried over, but no new federal investment is proposed.

Programs proposed for reduced funding:

The budget also proposes cuts to several other programs compared to their FY2026 funding levels:

- **Older Adult Home Modification Grant Program** — reduced by \$9 million, a 30% decrease
- **Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)** — reduced by \$10 million, a 14% decrease

Programs where the proposal is harder to assess:

For some programs, the budget does not include a specific line item, making it harder to determine what the proposal would mean in practice:

- **ICWA Title II Programs** are not named separately in the budget, but fall within the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Human Services activity, which the budget proposes cutting from \$159 million to \$104 million. Because the budget does not break out ICWA funding separately, it is not possible from the appendix alone to determine the exact proposed change for ICWA programs.
- **Mentoring for Children of Incarcerated Parents and Mentoring for Youth Affected by Opioids** are funded through Department of Justice Youth Mentoring Grants. The budget proposes \$40 million for that grant program, compared to an estimated \$199 million in FY2026.
- **Project AWARE, Statewide Family Networks, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, Native Connections, the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant, and the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant** would be eliminated as distinct programs under this proposal. The budget proposes consolidating these and other behavioral health activities into a new Behavioral Health Innovation Block Grant within the proposed Administration for a Healthy America. Under this structure, the specific programs would no longer exist as separate funding streams; however, the services and activities they currently support could continue if states choose to fund them through the new block grant. This means that access to these services would vary by state, and funding for any particular activity — including those relevant to kinship families — would be at the discretion of each state.

Other programs important to kinship families:

The budget also proposes eliminating LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) and reducing several other programs relevant to kinship families, including child abuse discretionary activities, adoption and guardianship incentives, and Victims of Child Abuse programs, which would decrease from \$81 million in FY2026 to \$38

million. The budget would cut the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) by \$1.4 billion and eliminate Preschool Development Block Grants.

The request also proposes significant changes to education funding. At the postsecondary level, the budget would eliminate the TRIO, GEAR UP, and Student Innovation Programs (SIP) (programs focused on supporting low-income students in accessing and completing higher education) alongside an almost 80% reduction in federal higher education funding more broadly. At the K-12 level, the budget proposes eliminating a number of existing programs and consolidating others into a block grant. As with other block grant proposals in this request, this structure would provide states with greater flexibility to direct funding toward the needs of students in their state, while also removing the dedicated focus on specific student populations that current programs provide. Whether and how those populations are served would be determined at the state level.

What comes next?

Congress will now begin reviewing the Administration's request alongside its own priorities as it works through the appropriations process. The Network will continue to monitor developments and share updates as the FY2027 budget process unfolds.