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TRUMP ADMINISTRATION BUDGET BLUEPRINT SIGNALS PROGRAMS SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WILL BE SLASHED



The Trump Administration, in its budget blue print released on March 16, 2017, proposed cutting billions of dollars in funding across ten agencies¹ that provide significant non-defense discretionary federal resources to programs that support children, youth, and adults with disabilities. The Administration has also proposed eliminating 19 agencies², many of which provide critical services and opportunities to people with disabilities. While we won't know the full extent of proposed cuts until we have full budget details later this year, these proposed cuts will have enormous impact on people with disabilities and their ability to meet the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act: to have equality opportunity, to be fully included, to live independently, and to be economically self-sufficient.

Employment

People with disabilities are significantly underemployed. There have been steady increases in their workforce participation since the great recession, however, in February 2017, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the participation rate for people with disabilities is less than one third that of the general population (20.4% vs. 68.4%).³ Despite the need to support employment efforts for people with disabilities, the Administration's blueprint proposes to cut or eliminate programs that support their employment efforts including the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Federal Work-Study program, and Job Corps training centers. These programs either directly support people with disabilities to find work or have significant levels of participation from people with disabilities.

Education

Over the past 15 years high school graduation rates for students with disabilities has improved by 16%. However, in 2016, the U.S. Department of Education reported the overall high school graduation rate was 82% while the rate for students with disabilities was 63%.⁴ Despite that gap, programs to support the continued academic development of students with disabilities have been targeted for elimination by the Administration, including cutting \$1.2 billion in funds for 21st Century Community Learning Programs and \$2.4 billion in funds to improve instructional strategies, much of which goes to improving the skills of general educators to work with students with disabilities. Also up

for elimination is the Striving Readers program, which is a great benefit to children with learning disabilities.

Poverty

People with disabilities have the highest poverty rate of any subgroup in the country. Over 27% of people with disabilities live in poverty compared to just over 12% for people without disabilities.⁵ Despite the obvious need to support those with disabilities living in poverty the Administration has proposed to sharply cut the Special Supplemental Nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) as well as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) that support poor families, many with members with disabilities.

Housing

The Administration also has proposed drastic cuts to programs that support accessible housing, including a reduction of over \$1 billion in rental assistance programs, new accessible housing, and home ownership programs which help individuals with disabilities remain in their homes and communities.

Research and Professional Preparation

The Administration also has proposed a drastic \$5.8 billion cut to the National Institutes of Health that will significantly reduce research about such conditions as autism, Down syndrome, and other life-long disabilities. The proposed \$403 million cut to the health profession and nursing training programs will reduce the number of professionals prepared to work with people with disabilities and their families.

¹ The Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Labor, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs, and the Small Business Administration.

² African Development Foundation, Appalachian Regional Commission, Chemical Safety Board, Corporation for National and Community Services, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Delta Regional Authority, Denali Commission, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Inter-American Foundation, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, Legal Services Corporation, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, Northern Border Regional Commission, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, U.S. Institute of Peace, United State Interagency Council on Homelessness, and Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

³ Table A-6 Employment Status of the civilian population by sex, age, and disability status: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t06.htm> (Last accessed March 27, 2017)

⁴ Public high school 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate by student characteristics: https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/ipedsdatatools/tables/dt15_219.46.asp (Last accessed March 27, 2017)

⁵ Poverty Gap—Civilians with and without disabilities ages 18 to 64 years living in the community by disability status: https://disabilitycompendium.org/sites/default/files/user_uploads/2016%20Annual%20Disability%20Statistics%20Compendium1.pdf (Last accessed March 27, 2017)