

March 16, 2016

**President Trump Releases *America First:*  
*A Budget Blueprint to Make American Great Again***

On Thursday, March 16, 2017, President Trump released his [budget blueprint](#) for 2018 – or “skinny budget” – that sketches the high-level numbers and priorities the President intends for the Federal budget. The budget blueprint is similar to an executive summary of the proposed budget and does not include much agency-specific detail.

The budget blueprint proposes topline spending of approximately \$1.1 trillion. As expected, the White House proposed a \$54 billion increase in military spending, with corresponding decreases in many domestic programs. The budget is significant in that it does not propose any increases to the deficit – that is, the increase in defense spending will be offset by cuts to domestic discretionary spending. The budget blueprint does not include mandatory spending such as entitlements (i.e., Medicaid/Medicare) or any tax proposals. These will be addressed by a full budget later in the spring.

The intent of the proposals included in the Budget Blueprint, the budget intends, by 2020, to make the Federal government:

- Deliver critical services more effectively;
- Devote a larger percentage of taxpayer dollars to “mission achievement” as opposed to compliance activities;
- More effective and efficient in supporting program outcomes; and
- Hold agencies accountable for improving performance.

The budget also reiterates the President’s regulatory stances, including the regulatory freeze instituted on January 20, 2017; the requirement that Federal agencies eliminate at least two existing regulations for every new regulation proposed; and the creation of a new Regulatory Reform Officer and Regulatory Reform Task Force, via executive order, to implement the President’s regulatory priorities.

As noted above, the budget blueprint does not provide specific numbers for all agencies and programs relevant to services and programs serving older adults and persons with

disabilities. The Administration for Community Living (ACL) is not mentioned at all. Therefore, this document provides the high-level funding levels for agencies or departments pertinent to the aging and disability networks, and the States. This memorandum provides information on specific programs where available.

At the highest level, the blueprint proposes a budget of \$69 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which is a \$15.1 billion, or 17.9 percent, decrease from the 2017 continuing resolution (CR). This funding level does not include changes to mandatory spending. The budget does include increased funding for program integrity efforts for Medicare and Medicaid, as well as implementation of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century CURES Act. The budget for the National Institute of Health (NIH) is cut by \$5.8 billion, which may meet resistance in Congress as there has been substantial bipartisan support for NIH in recent funding debates, including a \$2 billion increase in 2016.

The only agencies to see increases in overall funding under the budget blueprint are the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

A summary of the budget requests for relevant agencies is located below.

Department/Agency	Budget Request 2018 (\$)	Dollar Change from 2017 continuing resolution (CR)
Dept. of Agriculture	\$17.9 billion	\$4.7 billion decrease
Dept. of Education	\$59 billion	\$9 billion decrease
IDEA Grants to States	\$13 billion	Level-funded
Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS)	\$69 billion	\$15.1 billion decrease
Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control (HCFAC)	\$751 million	\$70 million increase
National Institute of Health (NIH)	\$25.9 billion	\$5.8 billion decrease
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality consolidated within NIH	-	-
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	Eliminated	Eliminated
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	Eliminated	Eliminated
Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	\$40.7 billion	\$6.2 billion decrease
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Eliminated	Eliminated
Dept. of Labor (DOL)	\$9.6 billion	\$2.5 billion decrease
Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)	Eliminated	Eliminated
Refocuses Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)	-	-
Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA)	\$78.9 billion	\$4.4 billion increase
Extends and funds Veterans Choice Program	-	-
Additional discretionary funding for medical and social supports	-	\$4.6 billion