

March 16, 2017

Dear Advocacy Points of Contact,

The Administration released its [FY2018 Budget Blueprint](#) this morning. This Budget Blueprint outlines budget cuts to non-defense discretionary spending across federal agencies, including:

- **Department of Housing and Urban Development:** A \$6.2 billion (13.2%) cut, which includes elimination of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Section 4 Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing funding
- **Department of Health and Human Services:** A \$15.1 billion (17.9%) cut, which includes elimination of Community Services Block Grant funding
- **Department of Justice:** A \$1.1 billion (3.8%) cut, which includes elimination of funding for the Legal Services Corporation, and elimination of \$700 million in “unnecessary spending” on “outdated [but not specifically identified] programs that either have met their goal or exceeded their usefulness”
- **Department of Education:** A \$1.5 billion (16%) cut, which includes elimination of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program, the Striving Readers program, and 19 other education programs
- **Department of Agriculture :** A \$4.7 billion (21%) cut, which includes elimination of \$800 million from WIC
- **Department of Labor:** A \$2.5 billion (21%) cut, which includes closing some Job Corp centers

These and other proposed budget cuts are likely to impact funding streams that YWCAs rely on, as well as programs that provide vital support to the people and communities we serve. Additional information and analysis is available through the [New York Times](#), the [Washington Post](#), [Bloomberg Politics](#), and other media outlets.

In response, [YWCA USA issued this statement](#), detailing our concerns and calling on Congress to pass a federal budget that better supports women and families.

Congress is responsible for the next steps in the FY2018 process. Once the president’s budget priorities are announced, the House and Senate typically respond by passing Budget Resolutions, which set the total budget amount for each appropriations committee to work with in developing the FY2018 budget. We can also expect a more detailed budget proposal from the President in May, which fleshes out these announced priorities.

Now is the time to take to social media, activate your networks, and let your members of Congress hear what your priorities are for the FY2018 budget! Follow the tips and strategies outlined in the [Federal Budget Toolkit](#). On social media, Use #DontCutHerOut to highlight both the positive difference federal funding streams make in your community, and the impact lost federal funding will have on the programs and services your YWCA provides. Here are some domestic violence examples to get you started, but this applies to any programs your YWCA offers that are supported by federal funding, especially those programs listed for elimination in today’s Budget Blueprint:

- #Trumpcuts mean fewer services & resources for survivors #DontCutHerOut #endDV #endSA
- #TrumpBudget cuts means more survivors might face homelessness or lack of services #DontCutHerOut #endDV #endSA



- The cuts proposed by #TrumpBudget will harm survivors, their families & their communities. #endDV #endSA
- #Trumpcuts for [Legal Services Corp.](https://www.legal-services.org/) will further endanger many women & kids experiencing #DV #DontCutHerOut (with hyperlink to <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/mar/16/legal-aid-services-cut-trump-budget-proposal>)

We will need all hands on deck to fight for a more fair budget that preserves funding for YWCA programs and services, and for social safety net funding that provides critical lifelines to our clients and communities. Please be in touch with questions, and we'll keep you updated through the budget process.

All the best,

YWCA USA Public Policy & Advocacy Department