

# Stopping Federal Cuts

*Why and How*



June 9, 2015

The Coalition on Human Needs is most grateful to its generous funders for making this webinar possible:

The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
The George Gund Foundation  
Anonymous donors  
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## Special Guests

### **Sheryl Marshall**

Housing Stabilization Case  
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Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

# **Coalition on Human Needs**

## **Federal Budget & Tax Outlook: Opportunities and Risks**

**Ellen Nissenbaum**  
**Senior VP for Government Affairs**  
**June 9, 2015**  
**[www.cbpp.org](http://www.cbpp.org)**

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## Overview

- **Three budget “tracks to follow”**
- **Major negotiations likely coming**
- **Possible action on poverty too?**
- **Debt Ceiling**

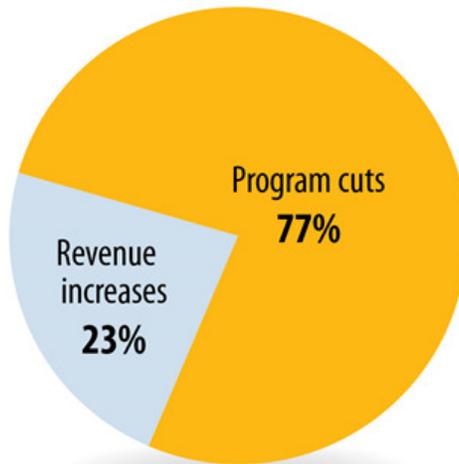


## **Key Policy Goals in Budget Process**

- **Provide sequester relief**
  - **Parity**
  - **Reasonable offsets**
- **Protect the ACA and Medicaid**
- **Permanently extend expiring improvements in the EITC and CTC**

# Recent Policy Savings to Reduce Deficits Largely Come from

Total policy savings 2015-2024



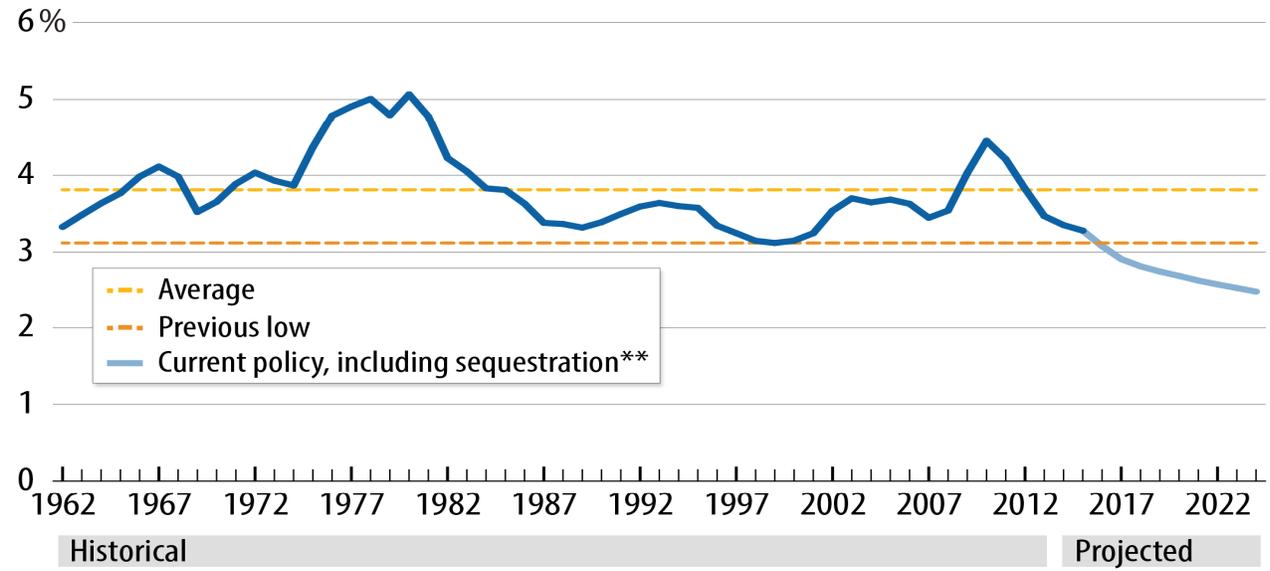
Note: Revenue increases and cuts were enacted in the 2012 American Taxpayer Relief Act and the 2013 Bipartisan Budget Act; program cuts were also enacted in the 2011 Budget Control Act and the 2014 farm bill.

Source: CBPP based on Congressional Budget Office and Joint Committee on Taxation data.

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# NDD Spending Falling to Historic Lows: “Road Map of Disinvestment”

Spending as percent of gross domestic product\*



\* Data available only back to 1962

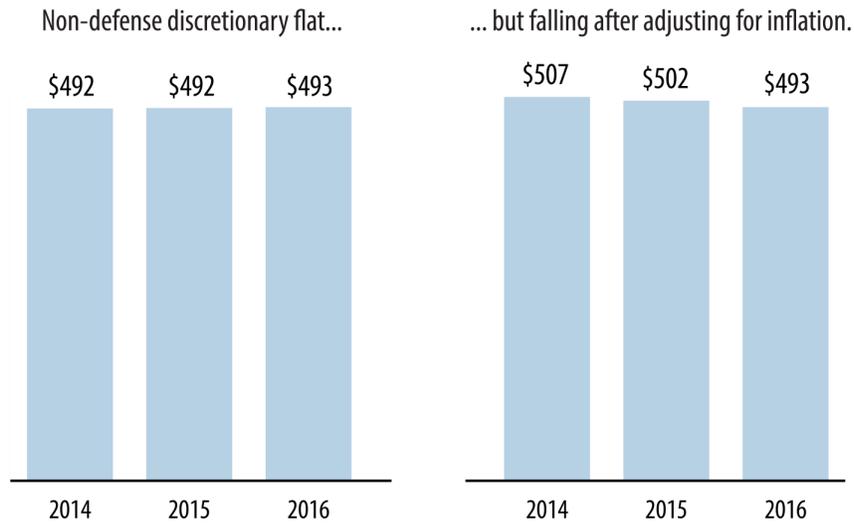
\*\* Sequestration budget cuts required under the 2011 Budget Control Act

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities based on Office of Management and Budget and Congressional Budget Office data.

# Budget Process and Timetable



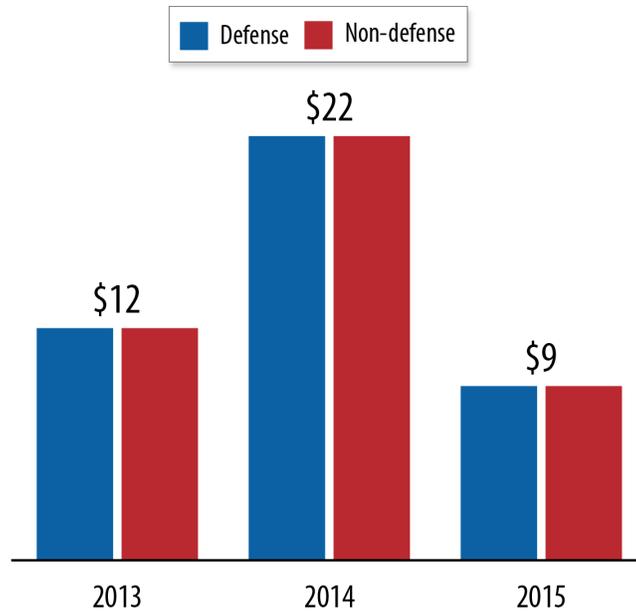
## Non-Defense Discretionary Falling After Adjusting for Inflation



Notes: All amounts exclude funding for disasters, emergencies, program integrity, and Overseas Contingency Operations. Figures are adjusted for inflation to 2016 dollars. All figures are in billions.  
Source: CBPP analysis of data from the Congressional Budget Office and Office of Management and Budget

# Sequestration Relief Has Been Evenly Divided Between Defense and Non-Defense

Sequestration relief to discretionary appropriations in billions of dollars



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Source: CBPP Calculations based on Congressional Budget Office data



# Reconciliation

- **Replace ACA**
- **Details depend on King case**
- **Medicaid**
- **Limited to health?**

## Key Threats to Low-Income Households





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# **Tax deal? Working families**



# Working-Family Tax Credits help at Every Stage of Life



**Improved infant and maternal health**



**Better school performance**



**Greater college enrollment**



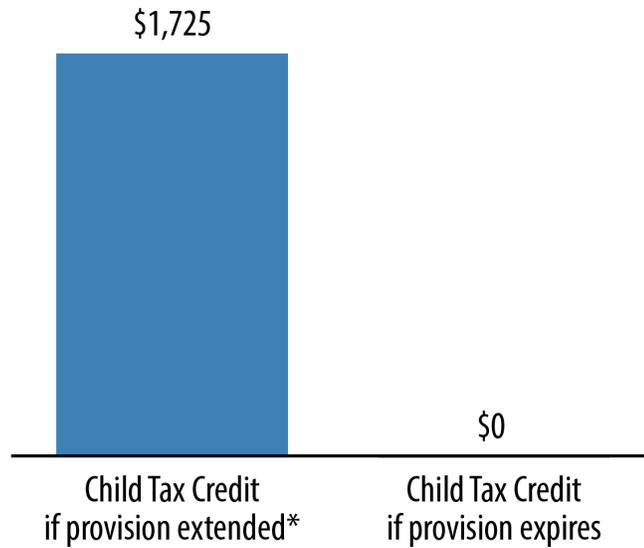
**Increased work and earnings in the next generation**



**Social Security retirement**

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## Single Mother Working Full Time at Minimum Wage With Two Children Would Lose Entire Child Tax Credit at End of 2017



\*The provision, which expires after 2017, lowers the level of earnings excluded for the purpose of calculating the refundable Child Tax Credit.  
Source: CBPP calculations based on Tax Policy Center data



## Key Threats Spelled Out

- Offsets for sequester relief/parity (failure to reach an agreement on caps)
- ACA/Medicaid
- Tax give-aways; EITC/CTC improvements expire
- Ryan's "Opportunity Grants"



**Deborah Weinstein**

Executive Director,  
Coalition on Human  
Needs

## Sheryl Marshall

Housing Stabilization  
Case Manager

House of Hope CDC,  
Warwick, Rhode  
Island

*Helping formerly  
homeless clients to  
secure stable housing*



# House of Hope CDC Clients



## Shalinee Hunter

Field Rep:  
Juvenile Justice Specialist  
and Disproportionate  
Minority Contact  
Coordinator,



## Juvenile Justice Federal Funding



FISCAL YEAR	JJDP TITLE II	JJDP TITLE V	JABG	MENTORING	TOTAL
FY 2002	\$88.8M	\$94.3M	\$249.5 M	\$16.0M	\$546.9M
FY 2010	\$75M	\$65M	\$55M	\$100M	\$423.5M
FY 2015	\$55.5M	\$15M	\$0	\$90M	\$251.5M
% DIFF. SINCE REENACTMENT	-37.5%	-84%	-100%	+462.5%	-54.0%

## Increasing Anger About Congress' Backwards Priorities

**57%** agree

government should do more to reduce the gap between rich and poor.

**68%** favor

raising taxes on people earning more than \$1m per year.

**39%**: nope.

**30%**: don't.

*NY Times/CBS Poll, 5/28-31.*

## Congress: Go Back to the Drawing Board



How to get them to do  
it, and to live with the  
results.

## 2016-2017 Goals

- Get rid of sequestration for domestic/international discretionary programs (for 2 or **more** years)
- Do **not** replace them with cuts to benefits/eligibility in mandatory programs (like SNAP, EITC/CTC, or Medicaid)
- Parity: for every dollar added to Pentagon beyond caps, add no less than a dollar for domestic approps
- If cuts have to be replaced, seek fair revenues and savings in mandatory programs that don't hurt low-income people

# Get their attention!

## ***Write:***

- Letters to the Editor
- Blog posts
- Online comments
- Op-eds

## ***Promote:***

- Talk to columnists
- Editorial Board meetings



## Message Parts

- Explain how a service or program is **helping** people.
- Describe the **problems** when people have to go without the program.
  - Impacts of previous cuts? Estimates of future impacts?
- Put **in context**:
  - How cutting this program will block opportunity/worsen inequality/slow economic growth.
- **Thank the President/hold Congress accountable**:
  - The President is calling for increased investments; fewer breaks for the rich; less Pentagon spending than Congressional proposals and no Pentagon sequester relief without help for domestic programs.
  - **Congress should go back to the drawing board and get its priorities straight.**

## Messengers

- Who can/should write letters to the editor, online comments? **Anybody.**
- Who should write op-eds?
  - Community leaders (service provider or advocacy org. leaders; religious leaders; business leaders)
  - People with direct experience (parents, people who've benefited from a service, people waiting to get service)
  - Researchers with findings to report
- Write something? Send a copy to your Senators and rep; circulate via Twitter, Facebook...

## Resources

- **CHN's FY16 budget page at [www.chn.org](http://www.chn.org):**
  - **How to write Letters to the Editor** (child care, Head Start, juvenile justice, housing vouchers, nutrition for seniors, low income tax credits, tax cuts for wealthy and corporations)
  - Links to White House and other state data
  - Info about proposed cuts
  - **Drafting help for op-eds**
    - Take Action alerts with emailable letters to Congress
- **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities at [www.cbpp.org](http://www.cbpp.org)** – federal budget/tax
- **Results ([www.results.org](http://www.results.org))** : Tips on setting up editorial board meetings:  
[http://www.results.org/skills\\_center/working\\_with\\_the\\_media\\_milestone\\_20/](http://www.results.org/skills_center/working_with_the_media_milestone_20/)

## Why should you do this?

- At least one-quarter of state budgets come from federal funding. You can't afford to lose more.
- Proponents of Pentagon spending and of tax breaks for the rich/corporations are pressing Congress ceaselessly.
- If we are silent, we lose.
- We need to educate the public and our own networks about the consequences of cuts.
- Stay connected! Get our emails! **Thanks!**



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