

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
Our members and contributors



Richelle Friedman,

Moderator

Director of Public Policy,
Coalition on Human
Needs



Ellen Nissenbaum

Senior Vice President for
Government Affairs
Center on Budget and
Policy Priorities



David Reich

Senior Policy Consultant
Center on Budget and
Policy Priorities



Deborah Weinstein

Executive Director,
Coalition on Human
Needs

Special Guests

Sheryl Marshall

Housing Stabilization Case
Manager,
House of Hope CDC
Warwick, Rhode Island

Shaline Hunter

Field Rep,
Board of State and
Community Corrections,
State of California



Ellen Nissenbaum

Senior Vice President for
Government Affairs
Center on Budget and
Policy Priorities



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

cbpp.org



Overview

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



Key Policy Goals in Budget Process

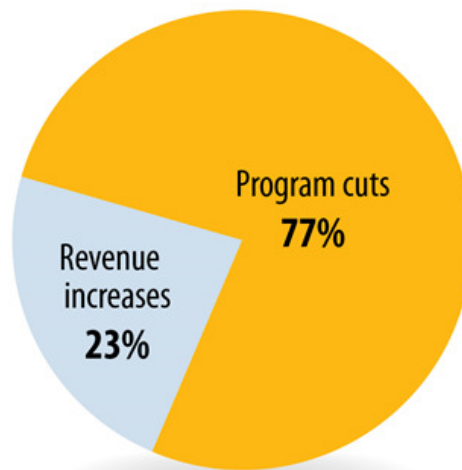
- **Provide sequester relief**
 - **Parity**
 - **Reasonable offsets**
- **Protect the ACA and Medicaid**
- **Permanently extend expiring improvements in the EITC and CTC**



Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

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.

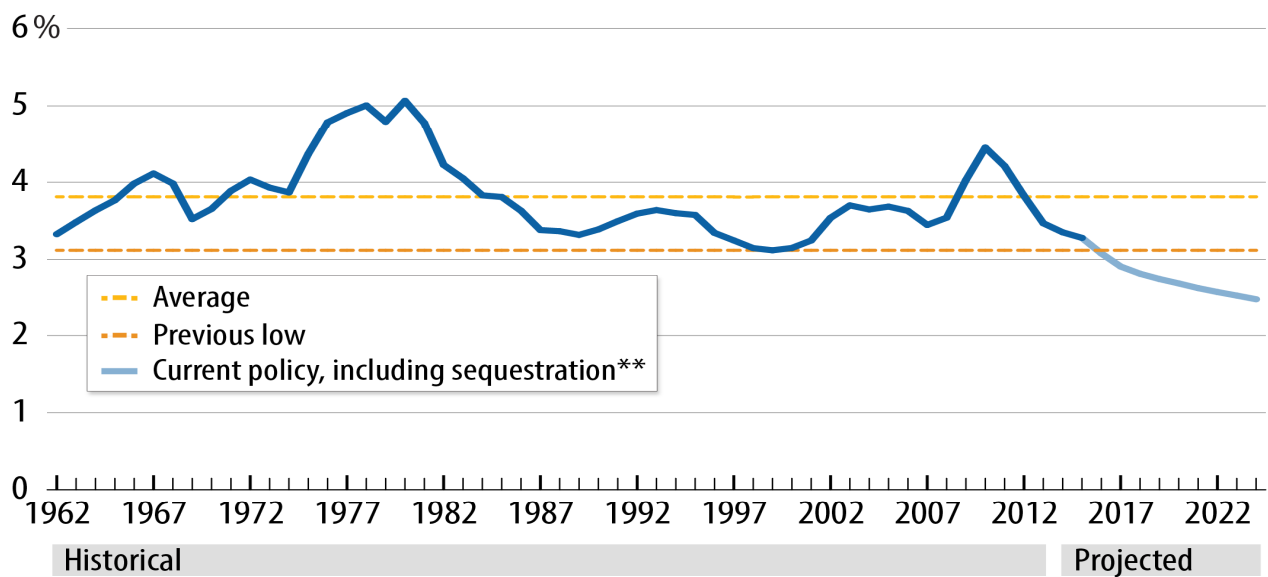
cbpp.org



Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

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.



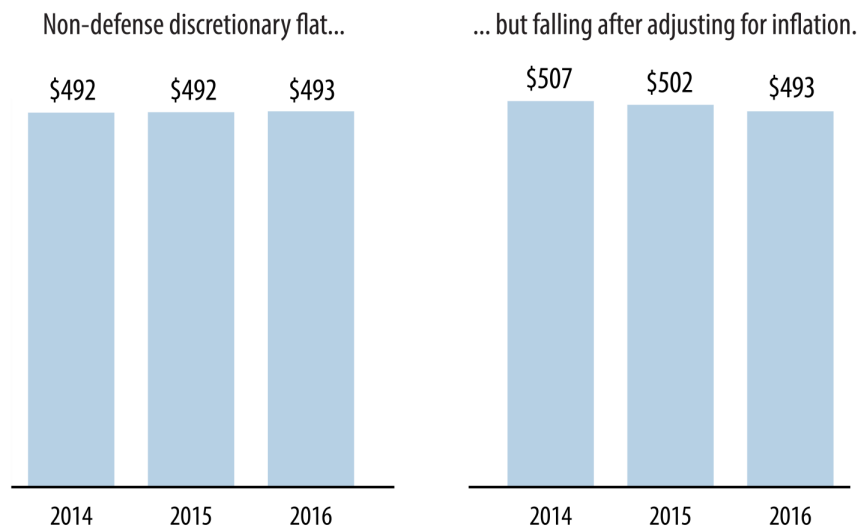
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

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.

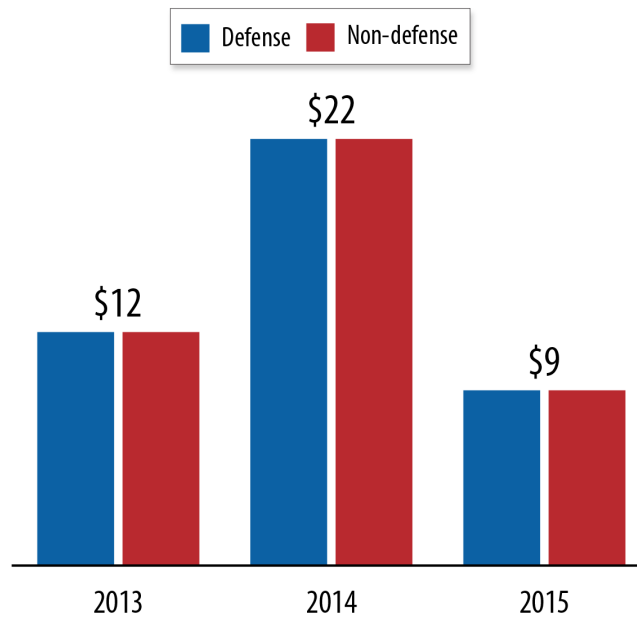
Source: CBPP analysis of data from the Congressional Budget Office and Office of Management and Budget



Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

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

Sequestration relief to discretionary appropriations in billions of dollars

cbpp.org

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





Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Tax deal? Working families





Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

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



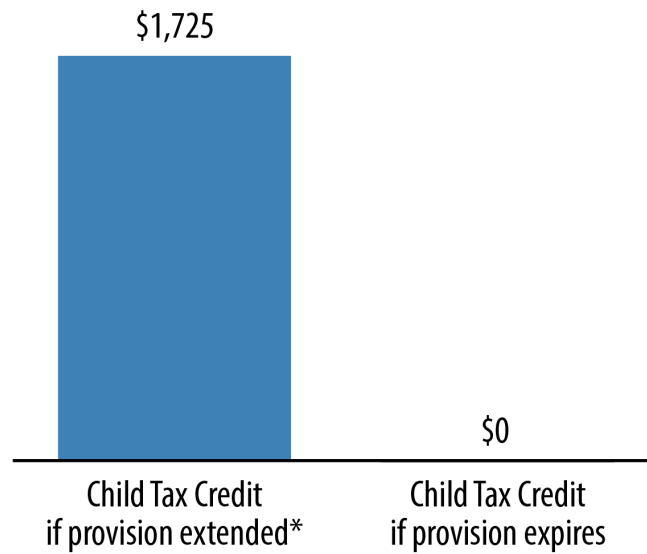
Social Security retirement

cbpp.org



Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

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

cbpp.org



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

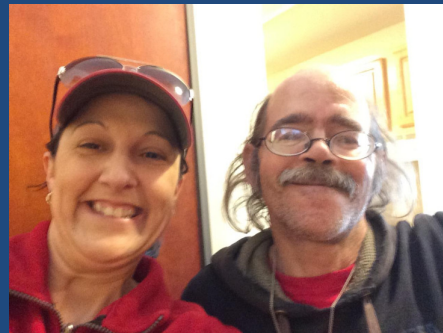
Housing Stabilization
Case Manager

House of Hope CDC,
Warwick, Rhode
Island

*Helping formerly
homeless clients to
secure stable housing*

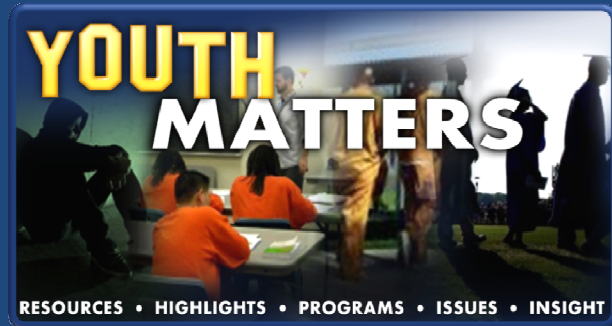


House of Hope CDC Clients



Shalinee Hunter

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



Juvenile Justice Federal Funding



FISCAL YEAR	JJDPa TITLE II	JJDPa 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:**
 - **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** – federal budget/tax
- **Results (www.results.org)** : Tips on setting up editorial board meetings:
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!**



www.chn.org