



## ITCA Update April 21, 2025

This week's update reports on activities occurring in Washington DC directly related to our mission and purpose. Congress has one more week on Spring recess until April 27<sup>th</sup>. Priorities when the Congress returns will be development of the reconciliation bill for passage of the administration's priorities later this year and receipt of the President's FFY 2026 Budget request.

**President's Budget for FFY 2026** The President's Budget request is expected to be sent to the Congress in late April or early May. Expectations are this Budget will be a "skinny version" of high-level numbers with a full Budget being provided later this Spring. It is also expected this Budget will include requests for significant cuts in domestic programs.

This is only the first step in the FFY 2026 process and serves as a set of recommendations to the Congress. There is no vote taken on the President's request. The House and the Senate are responsible for developing an appropriations bill that is agreed to by both chambers and the President. The final funding levels for all programs must be signed into law by midnight September 30<sup>th</sup>. If agreement is not reached by that time, a Continuing Resolution (CR) will be needed to continue to fund the government. Without a CR agreed to by the House, the Senate and the President, the government will shut down.

**OMB Preliminary Budget Leaked** Last week, a document from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) outlining possible FFY 2026 funding levels in the President's Budget request for programs under Health and Human Services (HHS) was leaked. This draft document, "2026 Discretionary Budget Passback" is widely circulating.

The HHS draft request would reduce funds for the department from \$121 billion in 2024 to \$80 billion in 2026. It includes funding levels for many programs and a list of over one hundred programs to be eliminated. It also includes plans for restructuring the agency. This document is only preliminary, and some funding levels and decisions may be changed before the final Budget request is released. There is no information available on possible requests for programs under the Department of Education.

The proposal would reduce the \$47 billion budget of the National Institute of Health (NIH) to \$27 billion, a roughly 40 percent cut. It would consolidate NIH's 27 institutes and centers into eight. The proposal would cut the Center for Disease Control (CDC) budget by about 44 percent, from \$9.2 billion to about \$5.2 billion. The proposal, if enacted would result in

about a one third cut in HHS discretionary spending. A new, \$20 billion agency, the Administration for a Healthy America (AHA), would be created.

The following is a selected list of twenty of the programs proposed for elimination as included in the OMB document. These programs relate to important services for young children and their families. Selected programs and the office in which they would be located are:

- AHA: Primary Care - Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and Traumatic Brain Injury
- AHA: Maternal and Child Health - Autism and Other Disorders, Healthy Start, Newborn Screening for Heritable Disorders, and Universal Newborn Hearing Screening
- AHA: Mental Health – Project Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health (LAUNCH), and Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health
- AHA Environmental Health – Childhood Lead Poisoning, and Lead Exposure Registry
- ACF – Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Head Start, Preschool Development Grants, Community Services Block Grant, State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, Developmental Disabilities Protection and Advocacy, and Developmental Disabilities Projects of National Significance
- Office of the Secretary – Children’s Interagency Coordination Council
- Office of Strategy -University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, and National Institute of Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitative Research

The document includes the following statement related to the elimination of Head Start. “The Budget does not fund Head Start. HHS/ACF should work with OMB to ensure to the extent allowable the FY 2025 funds are made available to close out the program. This elimination is consistent with the Administration’s goals of returning education to the States and increasing parental choice. The Federal government should not be in the business of mandating curriculum, locations, and performance standards for any form of education.”