

AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT AND MEDICAID REFORM

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Background:

In May the Trump administration released budget *recommendations* for Congress. Trump's budget takes \$54 billion from non-defense and adds it towards defense spending. Trump's budget reduces overall HUD funding by 17%, or \$7.7 billion. It also cuts HHS by nearly 18%, or \$15.1 billion. It cuts the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by \$193 billion over 10 years and eliminates funding for the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, among other major cuts. Although this proposal is considered "dead on arrival" it moves the needle for acceptable cuts and sets a precedent for set backs in affordable housing. Over the next few months Congress will create budget bills and work on reaching a budget agreement- which requires a full vote in the House and Senate, meaning some Democrats in the Senate will need to vote "yes".

Talking Points (provided by National Low Income Housing Coalition):

- **Budget Control Act:** Congress must lift the low spending caps required by the *Budget Control Act* equally for defense and non-defense programs and ensure the highest level of funding possible for affordable housing programs.
- **Spending Caps:** Low federal spending caps required by the *Budget Control Act of 2011* have decreased funding for affordable housing and community development programs. This has only made it more difficult to ensure low income seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, and other vulnerable populations are stably housed.
- **Lost Housing:** Budget cuts threaten affordable housing and community development investments and millions of low income families. More than 85% of HUD's budget goes directly to renewing housing assistance already in place. When HUD's resources are cut, families may lose access to stable housing, putting them at increased risk of homelessness.
- **Lost Vouchers and Support:** The proposed cuts could mean more than 250,000 people could lose their housing vouchers. It would also impose punitive measures that would jeopardize family stability – increasing the financial burdens they face through higher rents and ending support to help cover the cost of basic utilities, like water and heat
- **Needed Resources:** Federal investments in affordable housing—at HUD and USDA—provide families and communities with the resources they need to thrive.
- **Housing First:** Research has shown that when families have stable, decent, and accessible homes that they can afford, they are better able to find employment, achieve economic mobility, perform better in school, and maintain improved health.
- **HUD Works:** HUD and USDA affordable housing programs have lifted millions of families out of poverty. Without this investment, many of these families would be homeless, living in substandard or overcrowded conditions, or struggling to meet other basic needs.
- **Values/Morals:** Providing affordable housing to everyone is the right thing to do!