

CALL ON CONGRESS TO PRIORITIZE CHILDREN



When Washington plays chicken with deadlines, children often lose. That's because when the federal government shuts down, many families face hardship and the stability of programs that provide children with educational opportunities, health care, nutrition and other life staples suffer and stall. And leaving children behind like this has been an on-going pattern of our federal government in 2025. All year long children's programs have been on the chopping block.

According to preliminary analysis of the Children's Budget report, FY 2025 will mark the fourth consecutive year that federal spending on children has declined. At the same time, resources that Congress had already approved for children are being withheld or cancelled by the Administration while leaders in Congress and the Supreme Court are allowing it to happen. Further, key federal agencies that administer a sizable number of children's programs have been destroyed (for example the U.S. Agency for International Development) or targeted for elimination (The Department of Education).

And children don't have lobbyists or political action committees working for them to turn this around. Without Congress stepping up, kids risk losing access to the basic support they need to be healthy, safe, and well. Thankfully, members of Congress care about the opinion of their constituents. So we need your help to make children a priority for them.

Take Action Now

Email your U.S. **Senators** and **Representative** today and call on them to:

- **Center Children in All Decisions.** Ensure that spending bills and policy decisions protect, not harm, children's healthy development, safety, and well-being.
- **Reject Restructuring & Elimination Proposals.** Oppose any effort to reorganize, restructure, or eliminate federal agencies and departments that serve children.
- **Release Approved FY25 Funding.** Insist that the administration follow the law and immediately release the bipartisan supported funding enacted in March and stop withholding or cancelling funds approved by Congress.
- **Oppose Future Rescissions.** Block any proposals to claw back congressionally approved resources for children and families.
- **Fund children at the highest levels in FY26 and going forward.** Safeguard and strengthen the programs that work together to support kids and families in the U.S. and worldwide.

ACTION SHEET:

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Or Call the Capitol Operator at (202) 224-3121 and ask to be connected to your Senators and Representative instead:

- **Tell them:** *"I urge you to push for the highest possible funding levels for children in FY26. Also demand the Administration release all previously enacted resources, protect children's programs, and repeal harmful policies. Kids should be at the center of our federal budget decisions –not an afterthought."*

Please share this action sheet with your friends and family and spread the word on social media.