President Trump transmitted his annual budget to Congress on Monday, February 10, 2020. The $4.8 trillion budget includes steep reductions in social-safety-net programs, including cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. The Administration proposes to cut spending by $4.4 trillion over a decade. Of that, it targets $2 trillion in savings from mandatory spending programs, including $130 billion from changes to Medicare and $1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act over ten years. Social Security is cut by $30 billion over ten years and Supplemental Nutrition (SNAP) programs are reduced by $180 billion.

In addition, the President’s budget makes significant cuts to many discretionary programs that impact people with autism. Following is a summary of how programs that impact people with autism fare in the President’s budget request.

It should be noted that the President’s budget is just the beginning of the budget and appropriations process that will likely not be completed until after the 2020 elections in November. The House and Senate will review the budget request, then begin to develop their own budgets with the President’s budget as a starting point. Nevertheless, the President’s budget should be viewed as the vision and goals of this Administration.

**Department of Health and Human Services**

Overall the HHS discretionary budget is cut by nine percent.

**HRSA Autism CARES Programs**

As in the previous two Administration budgets, this year’s budget again zeroes out the “Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities” line item ($52 million) within the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). The justification provided in the budget narrative for this major cut is that the activities are expected to be funded through the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant. The Autism and Other DD line item funds the interdisciplinary professional health programs (including Leadership Education and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) and Developmental Behavioral Pediatrician (DBP) programs) intended to increase the number of health professionals to screen, diagnose, and treat individuals with autism. It also funds development of evidence-based interventions. These activities were increased as part of the original Autism CARES Act (just reauthorized in 2019) to help address the growing numbers diagnosed with autism. Congress rejected these cuts in the previous three years.

**Developmental Disabilities Programs**

The Budget makes significant cuts to programs authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Act (DD Act). This includes State Councils on Developmental Disabilities ($22 million cut), Developmental Disabilities Protection and Advocacy programs ($2 million cut), University
Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities ($9 million cut), and Projects of National Significance ($11 million cut).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY2019</th>
<th>FY20 final</th>
<th>President FY21</th>
<th>Difference between FY20 and FY21</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Department of Education</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>IDEA State Grants</td>
<td>12,364.4</td>
<td>12,764.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preschool Grants</td>
<td>391.1</td>
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<td>394.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part C Early Intervention</td>
<td>470.0</td>
<td>477.0</td>
<td>477.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants</td>
<td>3,303.6</td>
<td>3,397.0</td>
<td>3,667.8</td>
<td>+57.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supported Employment</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>22.5</td>
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<td>-22.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Department of Health and Human Services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HRSA Autism CARES Act programs</strong></td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>53.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>-53.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>DD Councils</td>
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<td>78.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>DD Protection &amp; Advocacy Systems</td>
<td>40.7</td>
<td>41.0</td>
<td>39.0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Centers for Excellence in DD</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>41.6</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>-8.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projects of Nat'l Significance</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>-11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifespan Respite Care Act</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>-3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nat. Family Caregiver Support Program</td>
<td>181.1</td>
<td>186.0</td>
<td>151.0</td>
<td>-35.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)

The Budget eliminates funding for Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), which provides flexible funding to states for services such as child care, day programs for seniors and people with disabilities, and services for homeless individuals and families. The Budget states that a 2011 Government Accountability Office report noted that SSBG is fragmented, provides duplicative or overlapping services, and has limited accountability. Recognizing grantees sometimes use SSBG to provide rapid and flexible funding for disaster relief, the Budget maintains the program’s authorization for possible future use in emergencies.

#### Caregiver Services

The Administration cuts the [National Family Caregiver Support Program](#) by $35 million with no justification provided. The Budget also cut the [Lifespan Respite Care Act](#) by 50% from $6 million in FY 2020 to only $3 million in FY 2021.

The Budget narrative notes that the Administration for Community Living (ACL) will continue to support the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act Advisory and the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act Advisory Councils. These advisory councils will continue to provide recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services on effective models of both family caregiving and support to family caregivers, as well as ways to improve coordination across federal government programs.

#### CDC

The President’s budget also cuts funding for the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) by nine percent overall, which includes a $50 million cut to the [National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities](#) (NCBDDD), a third of its budget. This center provides important surveillance activities as well as research and public education into complex neurodevelopmental disabilities such as autism. The Budget narrative indicates its cuts reflect an attempt to “refocus” the CDC on its core mission of preventing and controlling infectious disease and other emerging public health issues, such as opioids.

### Department of Education
The budget proposes cutting the Education Department’s funding by 8 percent, to $66.6 billion. For the IDEA Grants to States program, the Administration is requesting $12.9 billion, an increase of $100 million over the 2020 enacted level, to help maintain the Federal contribution toward meeting the excess cost of special education. Grants would cover 13 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure and provide an estimated average of $1,739 per child for about 7.4 million children ages 3 through 21. This funding would support States and local educational agencies (LEAs) as they work to improve results for children with disabilities.

Funding for the Grants for Infants and Families and Preschool Grants programs would be maintained at the 2020 enacted level. The $229.6 million Request for Special Education National Activities would maintain support for technical assistance, dissemination, training, and other activities that assist States, LEAs, parents, and others in improving results for children with disabilities.

**Vocational Rehabilitation**

The Budget includes $3.7 billion in mandatory funds for the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) State Grants program, an increase of $57.8 million over the fiscal year 2020 level consistent with the inflation increase specified in the authorizing statute. In 2019, the VR program helped approximately 143,500 individuals with disabilities—94 percent with significant disabilities—achieve employment outcomes.

The Administration continues to propose elimination of the Supported Employment State Grants program with the stated justification that it duplicates support available through the VR State Grants program.

**Department of Labor**

The Department of Labor is cut by 10.5% overall from the 2020 enacted level. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult program helps adults with barriers to employment gain new skills. The Adult program also provides employment services to military service members. The Budget includes $854,649,000 to fund Adult Activities for FY 2021, a $10 million increase over FY 2020. The Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) is cut by $11.4 million to $27.1 million.

**HUD Housing**

Trump proposed to again cut funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, including programs that help pay for rental assistance for low-income people.

The budget proposes a 15.2 percent decrease in gross discretionary funding from 2020 and eliminates several block grant programs. The Budget cuts funding for public housing 43 percent below its 2020 level, while also eliminating housing vouchers for 160,000 low-income households and eliminating the National Housing Trust Fund as well as the HOME Investment Partnerships, Community Development Block Grant, and Choice Neighborhoods programs.
The administration argues that some of the programs are not effective and that the funding could be redirected to other priorities, such as national security.

**Money Follows the Person Program**

Another item of note in the budget, is its treatment of the Money Follows the Person program. First, the budget provides $176 million, a cut of $78 million. In addition, the Budget creates a new “Money Follows the Person (MFP) State Plan Option.” This gives states the option to establish an MFP program under the state plan with a time limited enhanced federal match. States that spent less than 50% of their long-term service and supports (LTSS) funding on home and community-based services (HCBS) in the prior year would receive an enhanced match for the first five years they provide MFPR services.

This is a preliminary overview of the President’s Budget request. More information will be shared as it becomes available. The Autism Society of America will work with Congress to advocate for the largest possible funding levels for programs that support individuals with autism and their families.

For more details about these and other program funding levels in the President’s Budget, see the individual agency budget briefs released on Monday:


DOL: [https://www.dol.gov/general/budget](https://www.dol.gov/general/budget)

ED: [https://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget21/index.html](https://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget21/index.html)

HUD: [https://www.hud.gov/budget](https://www.hud.gov/budget)

