



Statement on the Trump Administration's FY 2019 Budget

February 14, 2018

The Trump Administration released its FY 2019 Budget on February 12, 2018 — a budget that sadly ignores the will of Congress, reducing support to low-income families, seniors, and the disabled, including people living with HIV/AIDS. The President's budget would shred safety net programs, totally rejecting the increases in spending provided to non-defense discretionary programs in the two-year Congressional budget agreement signed last week. The Administration's budget proposal, if implemented, would repeal the Affordable Care Act, gutting Medicaid expansion, and decimate the system of HIV care we have developed across the country using private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, and the Ryan White HIV Treatment Act.

The budget would eliminate the Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) and the AIDS Education and Training Center (AETC) components of the Ryan White Program and undermine our HIV prevention efforts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It would gut essential housing services through the Section 8 Housing Choice Program and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. And cruel budget cuts and changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) would deprive low-income families, seniors, and the disabled of essential access to healthy food.

The CAEAR Coalition is mobilizing to address the budget cuts that target the Ryan White Program and other services and programs for the poor. CAEAR Coalition urges its members and affiliates to tell their members of Congress to reject the President's budget, support the funding level in the Congressional budget agreement for non-defense discretionary safety net programs, and support funding increases for HIV/AIDS and social welfare programs.

The CAEAR Coalition will focus its advocacy efforts on:

- Increasing funding levels for Ryan White HIV Treatment Act Parts A and C, which provide funding to the majority of people living with HIV and address HIV care in urban, rural, geographically isolated, and medically underserved areas.
- Asking Congress to reject the proposed elimination of the Ryan White SPNS and AETC Programs. The SPNS Program supports the development of innovative models of HIV care and treatment to respond quickly to emerging needs of RWHAP clients. The AETC Program is a crucial resource to increase the number of healthcare providers who are trained to address medical treatment and management of persons with HIV based on the latest science and proven models of care.
- Asking Congress to reject the proposed \$26 million cut to the HOPWA Program allocation. This newly reauthorized program provides essential housing support for people living with HIV in areas with limited affordable housing.
- Asking Congress to reject the proposed \$35 million cut to CDC's domestic HIV/AIDS research and prevention budget. At a time when we are reducing the number of new infections due to

increased testing, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), and early intervention services, we must sustain our efforts nationally to end the HIV epidemic.

- Asking Congress to reject the cuts to SNAP by more than 30 percent over 10 years and to reject the proposed changes to benefits which affect SNAP beneficiary food choices.
- Asking Congress to reject work requirements on affordable housing programs, food stamps, Medicaid, and other safety net programs.

CAEAR Coalition

The Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition is a national membership organization which advocates for federal policy, legislation, regulations, and appropriations to meet the care, treatment, support and prevention needs of people living with HIV/AIDS and the organizations that serve them, focusing on health care reform and the evolving role of the Ryan White Program. CAEAR Coalition's proactive national leadership is focused on the Ryan White Program as a central part of the nation's response to HIV/AIDS. CAEAR Coalition's members include Ryan White Program Part A, Part B, and Part C consumers, grantees, and providers as well as the Part F AIDS Education and Training Centers. Learn more about the CAEAR Coalition at www.caeear.org.