



Trump Administration FY 2021 Budget

On February 10, 2020, President Trump submitted his Fiscal Year 2021 budget to Congress. While a president's budget is always amended by Congress, the programs the budget would fund and cut reflects their priorities. If this one were enacted, it would be devastating for older Americans.

The President proposes cutting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid -- breaking his campaign promise to protect these programs from cuts. He offers no real solutions to another campaign promise -- curbing drug prices.

The budget makes the steep 2017 tax cuts for individuals permanent, including those for the wealthiest Americans and their heirs. At the same time it cuts funding for programs that help working Americans.

Cuts Medicare

The Trump budget cuts Medicare by \$500 billion over 10 years in part by slashing payments to providers. This could affect beneficiaries' access to care. The budget includes no provisions to lower drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries or the government.

Cuts Social Security

The Trump budget cuts more than \$70 billion from Social Security, primarily from the disability insurance (SSDI) program, which provides benefits to disabled beneficiaries. The Administration would achieve this by adding more restrictions to the already cumbersome eligibility process. Disabled individuals who do not qualify for SSDI will also not be eligible to receive Medicare.

The budget also cuts Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which helps low-income individuals.

Cuts Medicaid and Health Care

The budget cuts \$1 trillion over 10 years from Medicaid and premium tax credits under the Affordable Care Act. The cuts will likely cause 12 million people to lose their health coverage, including millions of older Americans between the ages of 50 to 64 who have a pre-existing condition and cannot afford health insurance. The budget will make it more difficult for seniors to qualify for Medicaid; today seven million seniors rely on Medicaid to cover nursing home, home care and other health services not covered by Medicare.

Cuts Senior Nutrition Assistance

The President's budget cuts funding for nutrition assistance by \$182 billion over 10 years. It also restructures the program eliminating 40% of the benefits and providing recipients with a "Harvest Box" of non-perishable food rather than cash assistance. The budget would also eliminate nutrition assistance for 1 to 2 million recipients by ending SNAP's minimum monthly benefit for households with one or two people (currently \$16), which mainly goes to low-income seniors and people with disabilities. The budget revises the age considered "elderly" from 60 to 65; thus, making it more difficult for those under that age to qualify under certain eligibility rules.

Cuts Housing Assistance

The budget cuts funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, including eliminating the Community Development Block Grant, which provides grants to states and local communities for suitable housing, by \$8.6 billion or 15%. It slashes funding for public housing by \$3.2 billion affecting over 1 million households, mainly seniors and people with disabilities. It eliminates 160,000 housing vouchers affecting 45,000 seniors over 55 and cuts homeless assistance grants by \$4 million.

Eliminates Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP provides assistance for heating and cooling for low-income families. Approximately 40% of LIHEAP households have at least one person 60 years and older.

Eliminates Funding for Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

The CSBG provides funding to communities to help alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty, including services to help older adults remain self-sufficient and in the home.