

## **What the FY 2011 Budget Deal Means for Women and Families**

April 2011

To resolve the lengthy battle over appropriations for the remainder of fiscal year 2011, the President signed a continuing resolution (CR) on April 15 that cuts federal funding for domestic and foreign aid programs by approximately \$42 billion. (The defense budget was increased in the CR by \$5 billion, for a net funding reduction of about \$38 billion.) Cuts of this magnitude will negatively impact the people employed and served by the programs cut and undermine the fragile progress towards economic recovery that has been made in recent months.

However, the cuts to domestic programs in the CR are not nearly as deep as the draconian measures proposed in the House spending bill, H.R. 1, nor do they disproportionately harm women, seniors and lower-income families as H.R. 1 would have. In fact, the CR increases investment in a few areas of particular importance to women and families and maintains funding at the FY 2010 level for several vital programs. (However, a 0.2 percent across-the-board cut applied to all non-defense programs will reduce funding even for programs spared specific cuts.) This fact sheet highlights key components of the final CR and compares them to the proposals in H.R. 1.

### **Women's Health and Reproductive Rights**

- The CR funds the Title X family planning program and the teen pregnancy prevention program at about 95 percent of their FY 2010 funding levels. H.R. 1 would have eliminated all funding for these programs, preventing millions of women from accessing breast and cervical cancer screenings, family planning services, and other services and information they need to protect their health and plan their futures.
- The CR also maintains funding for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. H.R. 1 would have stripped Planned Parenthood health centers of all federal funding, devastating women's access to family planning services and preventive care.
- The CR maintains funding for the Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, which supports programs that provide prenatal health services to 2.5 million women and primary and preventive health care to 31 million children each year. H.R. 1 would have cut \$50 million from this program.
- The CR maintains most of the funding necessary to implement the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the health care law enacted last year; H.R. 1 would have stripped all funding for this purpose.
- Despite the fact that all 50 states can choose how to spend their local funds, the CR includes a rider that prevents the District of Columbia from using local funds to pay for abortion services for low-income women.

### **Head Start and Child Care**

- The CR provides a \$340 million increase for Head Start and Early Head Start, which will allow the 60,000 additional children funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to continue to receive services. H.R. 1 would have cut more than \$1 billion from Head Start, which would have forced programs to drop more than 218,000 children from their rolls nationwide.
- The CR includes a \$100 million increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which will sustain a small number of the additional children served by ARRA. H.R. 1 would have cut CCDBG by \$39 million.
- The CR also allows a portion of the \$700 million allocated to Race to the Top competitive education grants for states to be used for grants to states to improve their early care and education systems.

### **Education, Employment and Job Training**

- The CR provides for maintaining the current maximum award levels for Pell grants, which help low-income students – mostly women – pay for college. H.R. 1 would have cut the maximum Pell grant award by up to \$845. However, the final CR terminates the Pell grant program for summer school students, a cut proposed in President Obama's FY 2012 budget.
- The CR preserves most funding for the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program, which provides additional grants of up to \$4,000 to the lowest-income Pell grant recipients. H.R. 1 would have eliminated this program.
- The CR will allow the Department of Education to move forward with enforcement of proposed regulations to ensure that for-profit, non-profit and public schools are providing quality education and not preying on vulnerable students for their financial aid dollars. H.R. 1 would have barred the Department from implementing these regulations, which are particularly important to women, who make up two-thirds of students at for-profit colleges.
- The CR reduces funding for several job training programs – it eliminates the Green Jobs Innovation Fund, cuts funding for Youthbuild by 22 percent, and makes smaller cuts to job training state grants for adults, youth and dislocated workers (which are partially offset by a new \$125 million Workforce Innovation Fund). H.R. 1 would have eliminated all funding for these programs.
- Funding for grants to school districts serving disadvantaged students under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act is maintained in the CR at the FY 2010 level of approximately \$14.5 billion. H.R. 1 would have cut nearly \$700 million from this program.

### **Supports for Elderly and Low-Income Women and Families**

- The CR cuts \$504 million from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, better known as the WIC program. This cut is smaller than the \$747 million cut proposed in H.R. 1, and the program is expected to be able to continue to serve all

eligible participants; however, if WIC participation and/or food costs rise above projections in coming months, the lower funding level could be inadequate to meet the needs of low-income pregnant women and their infants.

- The CR maintains administrative funding for the Social Security Administration (SSA) at FY 2010 levels. While this is \$350 million more than H.R. 1 would have provided, it is less than is needed to adequately serve the increasing number of applicants as the baby boomers reach retirement age while reducing the backlog of disability applications. In addition, this CR brings the total cut to reserve funding for SSA information technology investments to \$275 million.
- The CR includes a severe cut to the Senior Community Service Employment Program (45 percent); H.R. 1 would have gone even further, slashing the program by nearly 64 percent.
- The Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which provides nutritious food to low-income seniors, pregnant and post-partum women, and young children, receives a small increase in the CR instead of the 12 percent cut in H.R. 1.
- The Community Services Block Grant is cut by \$20 million in the CR, compared with \$305 million in H.R. 1.