



Support for Working Americans: An American Budget

The Budget helps working families find a path toward a better future by supporting their efforts to balance work and family responsibilities, providing more opportunities to develop their skills, and reshaping welfare programs to emphasize work for those who are able.

Supporting Working Families with Paid Family Leave and Child Care

The Budget helps families balance work and home responsibilities by providing access to paid family leave nationwide and investing in child care.

- *Providing Access to Paid Family Leave for All New Parents.* The Budget includes a proposal to provide six weeks of paid family leave through the Unemployment Insurance system to new mothers and fathers, including adoptive parents, so all families can afford to take time to recover from childbirth and bond with a new child.
- *Investing in Child Care.* Recognizing the importance of child care in helping families work, go to school, and enroll in training, the Budget provides increased funding for child care and uses these investments to leverage additional State support for child care.

Building a Stronger Workforce

The Budget funds evidence-based approaches to workforce development, improves programs to provide higher quality services to job seekers, and disinvests in ineffective, duplicative, and peripheral programs.

- *Investing in Evidence-based Models.* The Budget funds evidence-based workforce development models, more than doubling the investment in apprenticeship, getting unemployment insurance beneficiaries back to work more quickly and at higher wages, and supporting National Guard Youth Challenge, a military-style training program for at risk youth that has been shown to increase educational attainment and long-term earnings.
- *Reforming Ineffective Programs and Spending Taxpayer Dollars More Effectively.* The Budget allocates spending more efficiently to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent on workforce programs that achieve their goal of increasing employment and wages for job seekers. It also takes steps to improve underperforming programs.
- *Providing Flexibility for State and Local Workforce Development Spending.* The Budget allows States and localities to provide training and employment services more efficiently by allowing additional flexibility in how they spend their workforce development dollars.
- *Expanding Pell Grant Eligibility for Short-Term Programs.* The Budget proposes to expand Pell Grant recipients' eligibility to include high-quality short-term programs, with sufficient guardrails in place to balance students' needs with protecting taxpayers' interests.
- *Consolidating and Reorganizing Federal Workforce Programs.* The Secretaries of Labor and Education are working on a comprehensive plan to consolidate and reorganize Federal workforce development programs to ensure that American workers receive the highest quality services possible.

Making Welfare Work

The Budget proposes to break the cycle of poverty that traps millions of Americans by reforming welfare programs in ways that promote work as the best pathway out of poverty and encourages State innovation while holding States accountable for achieving results. The Budget also proposes a bold new approach to nutrition assistance.

- *Allowing Welfare-to-Work Projects.* The Budget proposes a new flexibility for States by allowing Welfare-to-Work Projects, demonstrations that streamline funding from multiple public assistance programs and tailor services to the specific needs of constituents. These projects will be rigorously evaluated to measure how well States are achieving employment and self-sufficiency outcomes, with the intention of expanding in the future
- *Reforming Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).* The Budget proposes to strengthen TANF's focus on promoting work by requiring States to spend at least 30 percent of funds on education and training activities and work supports. The Budget would also change the work participation measure to strengthen State accountability and effectiveness. The Budget also reduces the TANF block grant—consistent with the proposal to eliminate the Social Services Block Grant—and eliminates the poorly targeted TANF Contingency Fund.
- *Reforming the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).* The Budget proposes to strengthen work requirements for able-bodied adults and target benefits to the neediest households. The Budget also promotes the use of data and technology to improve program integrity and encourages State investments in evidence-based activities to help participants obtain and maintain employment. Finally, the Budget proposes to combine the traditional retail-based SNAP electronic benefit with the direct provision of nutritious and 100 percent American-grown USDA Foods to participating households. This cost-effective proposal maintains our commitment to helping needy families avoid hunger while generating substantial savings.